

JUNE – JULY 2011

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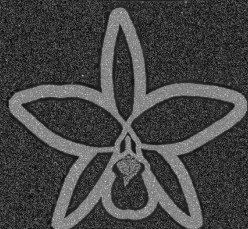
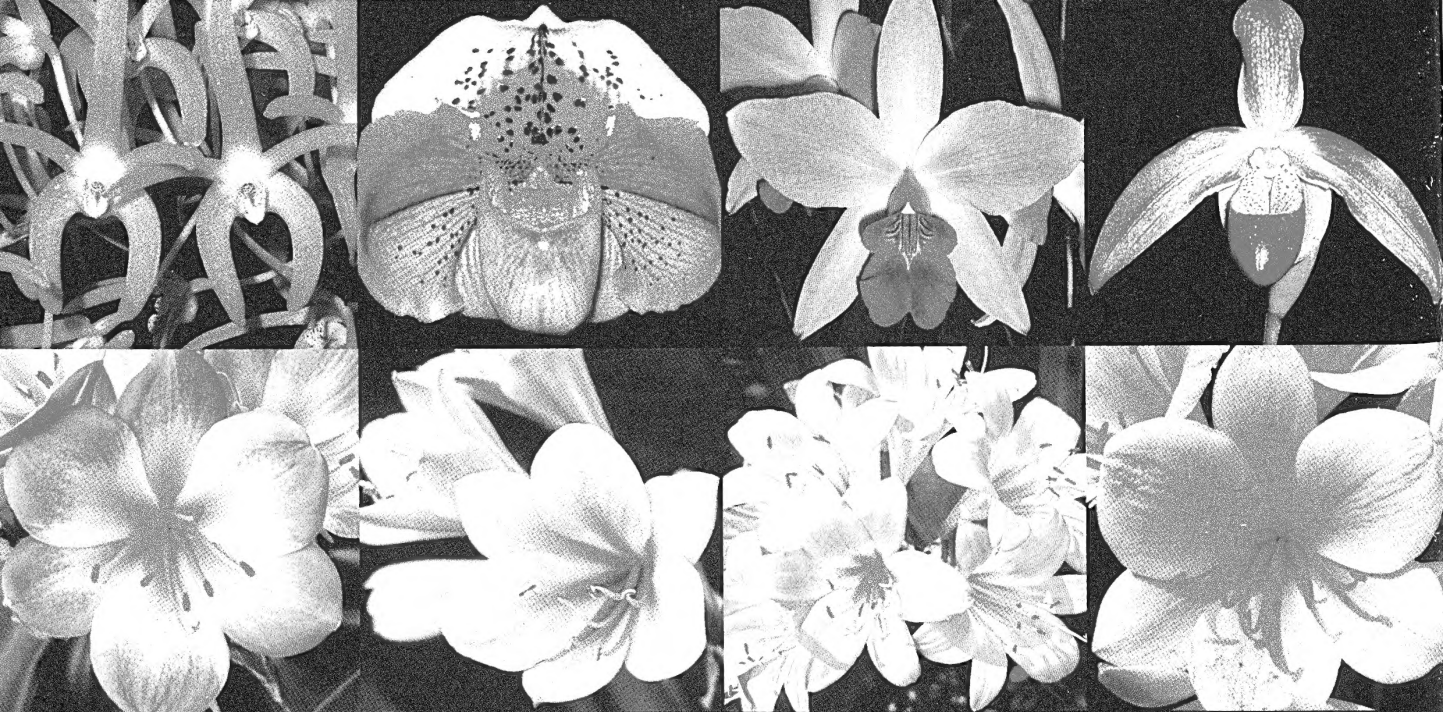
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From the Editor's Desk

A lot of orchid enthusiasts like to see photos of their favourite plants growing in the wild. We are conscious of trying to accommodate all tastes in the AOR, with a mix of articles in each issue. In this issue Gary Backhouse gives us a synopsis on the Bee Orchids from the Genus *Ophrys*.

Rudolf Jenny returns with another thorough article on a variable tropical species. This time *Bulbophyllum falcatum* is discussed and Rudolf delves into the colourful history of this African orchid, with an array of botanical illustrations and photographs. Rudolf recently published his *Stanhopea* monograph, which is an outstanding and fully complete publication, covering all species within this unique genus.

There are lots of major orchid events coming up. We are also pleased to announce that the highly successful Sydney International Orchid Fair will become a biannual event, starting in 2012. The April event will be maintained, with new dates in September. More details will be provided closer to these dates. The major Orchid Shows and Fairs are promoted through advertisements in the AOR.

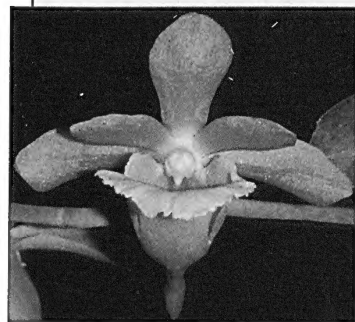
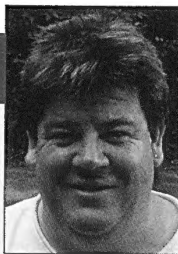
The annual Tinonee Orchids Open Day and Show has increased in size and momentum every year, with people travelling from across the country to attend. The organisers have made it a full weekend for visitors who attend this friendly and enjoyable event, with guided bushwalks into rich orchid country a feature as well as some outstanding social dinners. The bushwalk is organised through the independent Parramatta and District Orchid Society. See the article on this issue for more details, as well as photos from some of the wide variety of show plants from 2010.

The 2011 National Orchid Extravaganza (hosted by the Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc.) will be again held at the Dural Recreation Centre at Ellerman Park, Round Corner Dural, NSW from 12-14 August 2011. This is regarded by many as the largest and most prestigious Cymbidium Show in Australia, and is an essential date on the orchid calendar. There will also be a monster raffle supporting Retina Australia. The St. Ives Orchid Fair is held the following weekend, and a report on last year's event appears in this issue.

It is with much sadness that I report the sudden passing of Dr. Eric Christenson from Florida, USA in April 2011 at the age of 55. He was a research taxonomist with strong interests in the Aseridinae (Sarcophaginae), neotropical floristics, and the conservation of horticultural plants. He authored a monograph on the genus *Phalaenopsis* in 2001. His monograph on *Maxillaria* was close to completion, and hopefully it may still be published. Eric was a prolific author of more than 300 scientific and popular papers, including numerous contributions to the AOR. Dr. Christenson was known for his articles that attempt to bridge the gap between taxonomy and horticulture. He was a strong advocate for orchid conservation, particularly *ex situ* propagation, and actively works with commercial growers to that end. Just before his untimely death, Eric

had emailed a number of articles to me for the AOR, which will be published in future issues. The monotypic *Christensonia vietnamica* (pictured) was named in his honour in 1993.

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



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Melbourne

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Articles for publication and consideration should be sent to:
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Cover Shot

Epicattleya Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower'

is an amazing hybrid bred from the uniquely coloured *Epidendrum pseudopidendrum* from tropical Central America. Shown at the 2010 St. Ives Orchid Fair by Gowan Stewart
Photograph © by Bill Dobson.





All abuzz! The fabulous Bee Orchids of Crete

Text and photos by Gary Backhouse

In this article, the second part of the chronicle of an Orchid trip to Crete in April 2010, I look specifically at the bees orchids of the genus *Ophrys*, a large, diverse genus of orchids found mainly in the Mediterranean region of Europe.

Ophrys episcopalis Armeni



Ophrys apifera
Plakias



Ophrys apifera
Akoumia showing
self-pollination

Estimates of numbers of species of *Ophrys* vary widely and wildly, from the Kew Botanic Gardens flora checklist, which contains just 33 species (but lists dozens of subspecies and over 100 named natural hybrids!), to over 250 species in *Orchids of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East* by P. Delforge. Notwithstanding the very difficult task of assigning names to plants, I was keen to see some of these beautiful little orchids for myself.

The bee orchids have a labellum shaped remarkably like a bee or wasp (hence their common names) and is variously bristly, lobed and ornately patterned or has colourful iridescent patches on the lip. *Ophrys* are pollinated mostly through sexual deception, the flowers mimicking the appearance and scent of a female wasp or bee, to which the male wasp is attracted and, while attempting to copulate with the labellum (a process called pseudocopulation), effects pollen transfer.

I used three different reference books, all published since 2006, to try and identify the bee orchids I found on Crete. However, each book differed in its treatment of the *Ophrys* on Crete, with many species apparently having at least two names from which to choose! I also had to become familiar with terms like 'speculum', 'basal field' and 'stigmatic cavity', all floral characters that are used in identifying *Ophrys*.

My first bee orchid in the wild came rather unexpectedly. Judy and I went to the excellent Crete Aquarium (about 25 km east of Heraklion), but arrived about 30 minutes before opening time. There was a block of what looked like 'wasteland'

behind the beach near the aquarium. It was surrounded by an ineffectual rusted wire fence, with trail bikes tearing around and rubbish dumped on the site, but there were a few wildflowers out, so we thought it worth a look. We went for a wander over the site, not expecting to see much, just killing time until the aquarium opened. Within a few metres of the car was my first European orchid in the wild and, even better, my first *Ophrys*, rather appropriately the Cretan Bee Orchid *Ophrys cretica*. We found six orchids in flower, including three *Ophrys* species, so needless to say our arrival at the aquarium was substantially delayed.

Bee orchids proved to be a common component of the orchid flora of Crete, with at least one species growing just about everywhere we found orchids in Crete. Several sites around Spili had as many as 10 species flowering in close proximity. Among the smallest species is *O. bombyliflora*, with its very small flowers with greenish yellow sepals and a very bristly brown labellum. It is short and is often hidden amongst the long grasses in the damp sites where it grows.

Taxonomy of *Ophrys* is highly controversial, with many very similar species being split on the basis of having different wasp or bee pollinators. A case in point is *O. phryganae* and *O. sicula*, which are virtually identical and often grow together, with differences of only a few millimetres in labellum length and depending on whether the labellum is slightly bent at the base (*phryganae*) or almost flat (*sicula*), but each species has a different wasp pollinator.



Ophrys ariadne
Spili



Ophrys bombyliflora
Viglotopi

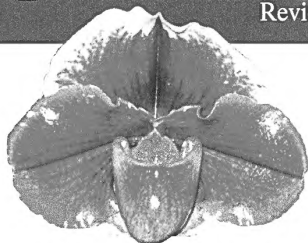
One difficult group is the so-called 'spider orchid' *O. sphegodes* group which, on Crete, includes *O. cretensis*, *O. gortynia*, *O. grigoriana*, *O. herae*, *O. mammosa* and *O. spruneri*. These are all superficially very similar orchids that have a brown to purplish velvety labellum with a bright fluorescent blue H-shaped (or variation thereof) blazon.

Another group of very similar species have patterned brownish lips variously adorned with bristles and curved horns, offset by pink sepals and petals. *Ophrys apifera* has a rounded labellum with the terminal appendage under the flower. This species is self-pollinating, and within a day or two of the flower opening, the pollen descends onto the stigmatic cavity. *Ophrys candica* has a sparsely bristled labellum with a rather messy pattern, while the largest in the group, *O. episcopalpis*, has a labellum with densely bristled margins and a well-defined pattern. The loveliest in this group is *O. heldreichii* which has a curved, elongate, almost urn-shaped labellum with bold, bright pattern.

When looking at these wonderful orchids in the field and checking the confusing information in the guide books and scratching my head trying to decide just what I was looking at, I was struck by the many parallels with *Caladenia* in Australia – a prominent, beautiful, highly diverse genus containing many species that are conspicuous and common components of the orchid flora, a confused and highly controversial taxonomy, apparently highly variable and with many species also pollinated by sexual deception. Whatever their names, I thoroughly enjoyed seeing these little jewels growing on the wild, rocky and very prickly hillsides of Crete.

Gary Backhouse
Greensborough, Victoria
Email: outbackorchids@hotmail.com

Australian Orchid Review



WELCOMES EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all slides, photographs and electronic files are clearly marked with the author's name and address

Address editorial to:

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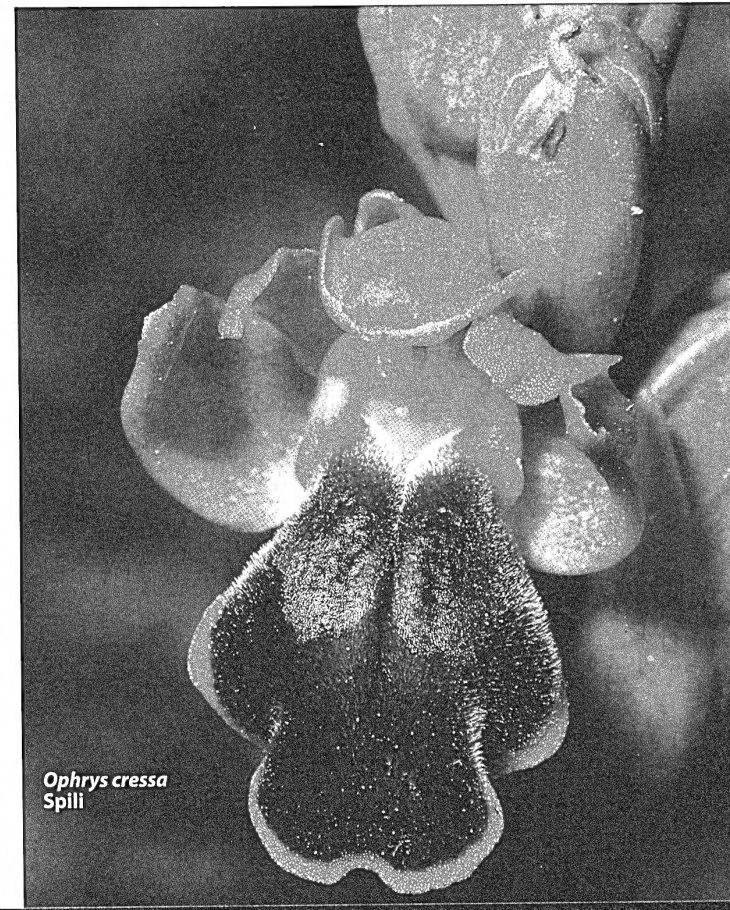
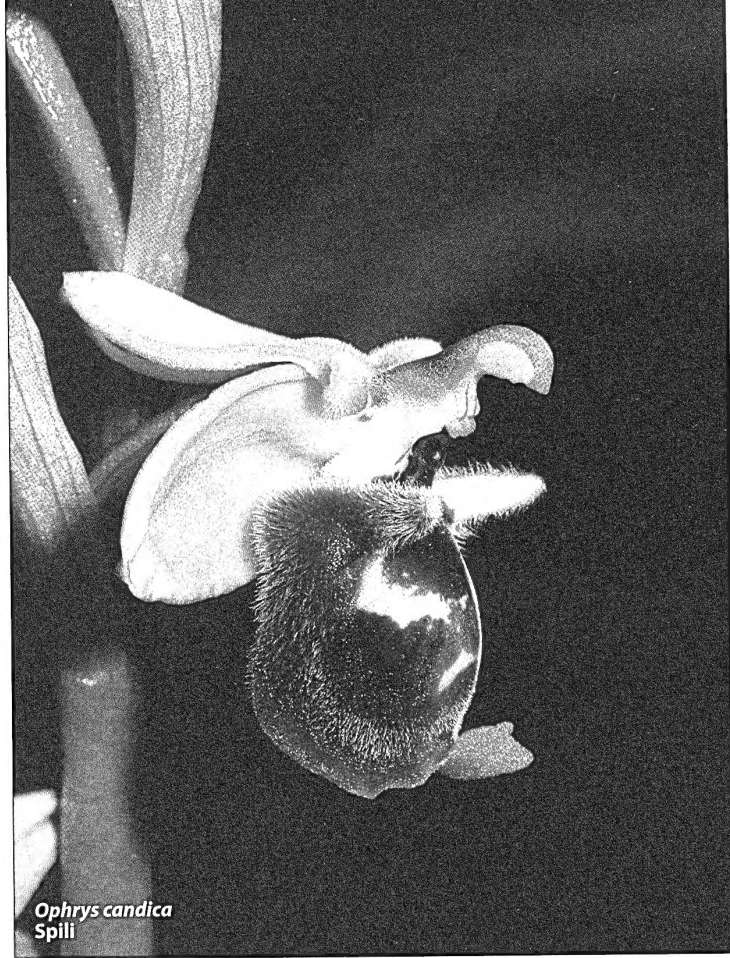
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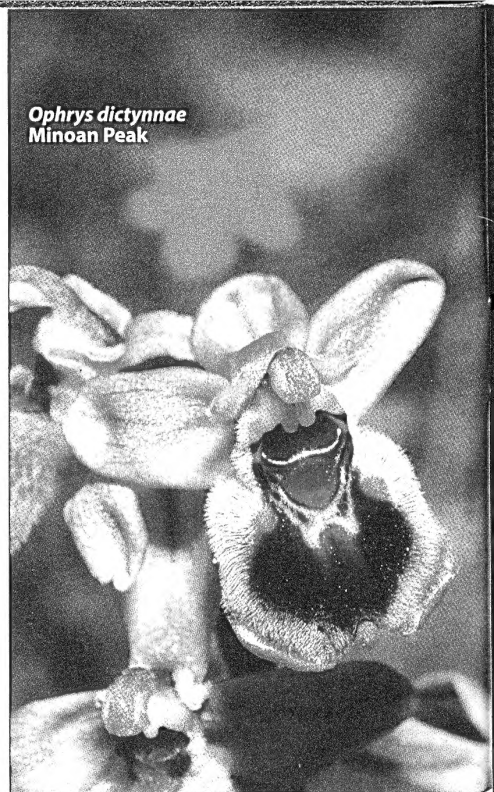




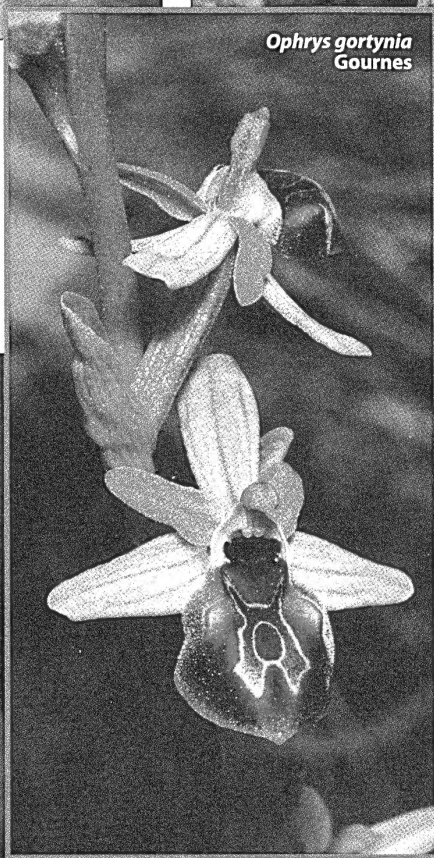
Ophrys cretensis
Gournes



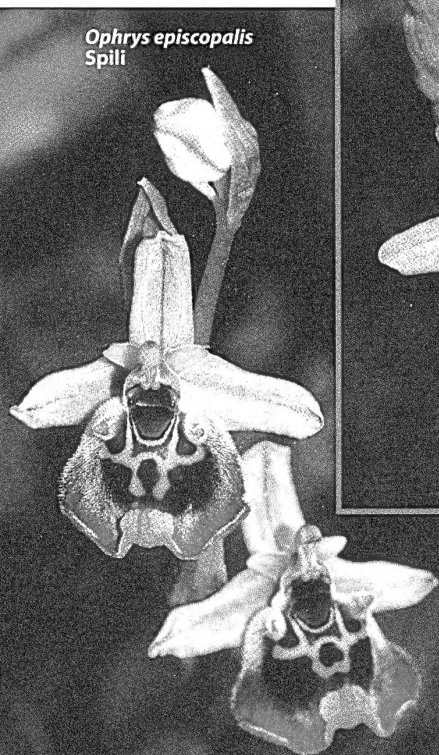
Ophrys cretica
Minoan Peak



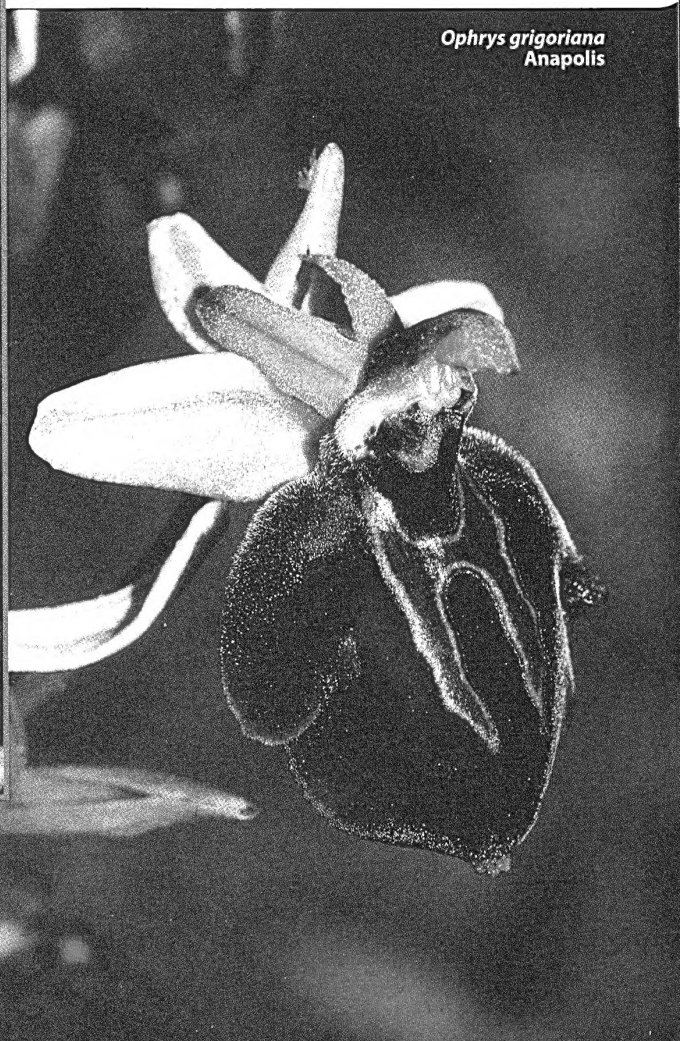
Ophrys dictynnae
Minoan Peak



Ophrys gortynia
Gournes



Ophrys episcopalis
Spili

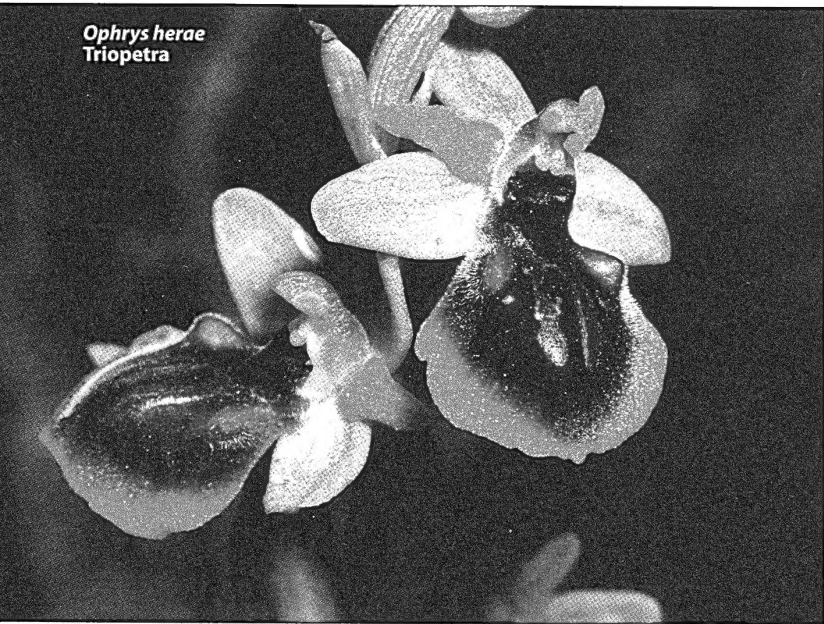


Ophrys grigoriana
Anapolis

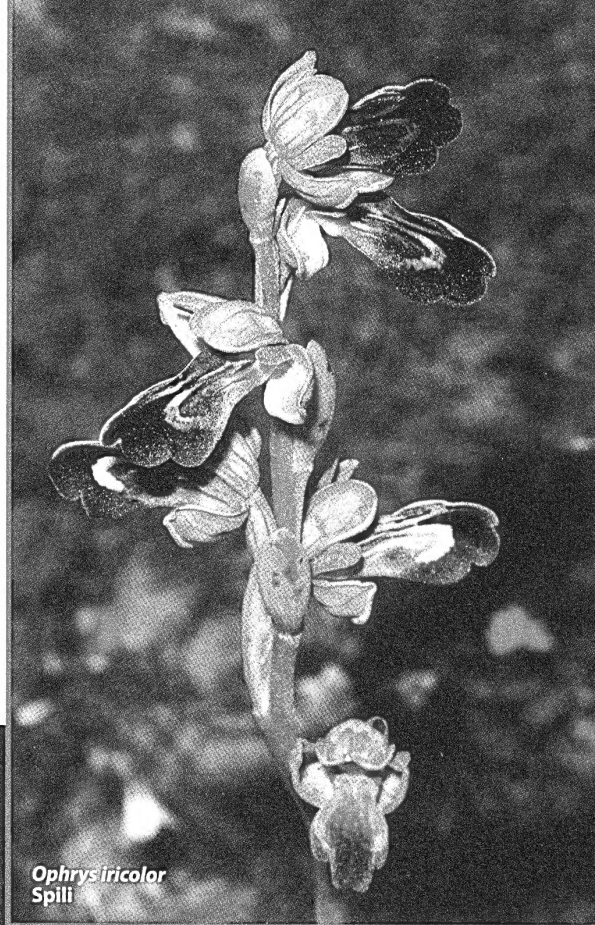
Ophrys heldreichii
Spili



Ophrys herae
Triopetra



Ophrys iricolor
Spili



Ophrys leochroma
Spili

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID RESEARCH

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New Taxa of Australian Orchidaceae

Jones, David L. & Clements, Mark A.
et al 2006

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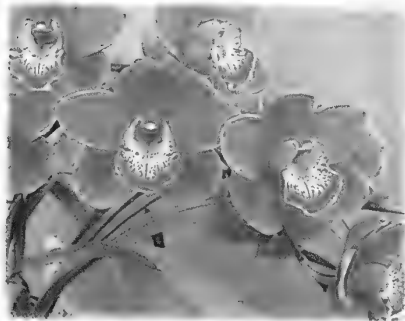
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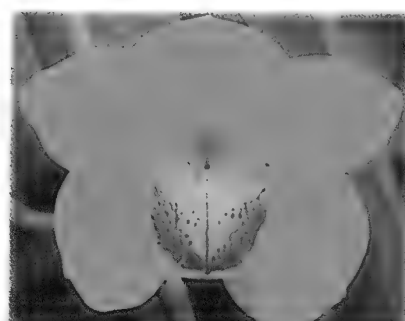
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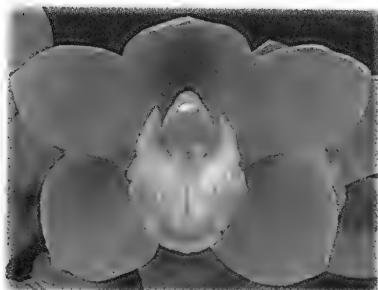
PEPPER BLAZE
'RADIANT'



LUNAR BLAZE
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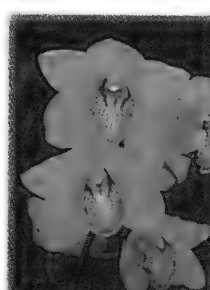
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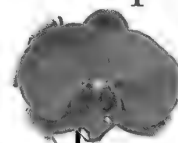
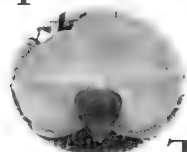
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Clowesetum Brown's Delight
'Margaret'



2010 St. Ives Annual Orchid Fair and Show

by John McAuley with photos by Bill Dobson

The annual St. Ives Orchid Fair and Show continues to live up to its name "The Big One". For three days every August, two large pavilions are taken over by the show and fair. In 2010 the attendance by the public exceeded all previous years with queues waiting for the doors to open each of the three mornings that the event was on. Coach parties of orchid growers arrived from afar to grab a bargain, or that special orchid that they always sought after. Few would have left empty handed or disappointed.

Vendors came from all over Australia and even attracted a South American nursery with flasks of those hard to get species that one always drooled after. Plants, flasks, chemicals, potting media, and accessories were in abundance and expert advice and demonstrations available throughout the Fair.

The sight of so many magnificent flowering Cymbidiums and Australian native orchids in addition to the other flowering genera for sale in the vendors pavilion was a picture to behold.

The pavilion with the show consisted of large displays and table top displays by numerous societies and growers, in addition to those of the four organising Societies; namely Manly-Warringah Orchid Society, North Shore Orchid Society, Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society and the Warringah Group of ANOS (Australasian Native Orchid Society). Special features of the show are the magnificent competitive orchid floral art displays, and the similarly competitive orchid art section which includes photography, paintings, and any other art form.



The major 2010 prize winners were:

Grand Champion Orchid of the Show & Champion Orchid Hybrid not elsewhere specified

Clowesetum Brown's Delight 'Margaret' (G. Talbot)

Reserve Champion Orchid of the Show & Champion Australian Native Hybrid

Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Oscar' (Henk van den Berg)

Champion Standard Cymbidium Hybrid & Champion Cymbidium Seedling

Cymbidium Kimberley Lagoon (Barrita Orchids)

Champion Cymbidium Hybrid - Miniature / Intermediate

Cymbidium Kulnura Sweet 'Valencia' (Barrita Orchids)

Champion Laeliinae Hybrid

Rhynchosophracattleya Little Jamie 'TNT' (Dendi Orchids)

Champion Paphiopedilum Hybrid

Paphiopedilum Invincible (T & E Price)

Champion Vandaceous / *Phalaenopsis* Hybrid

Phalaenopsis Yorkshire 'David' (Dendi Orchids)

Champion Oncidiinae Alliance Hybrid

Burrageara Rays Fire 'Who Cares' (Ray Olstan)

Champion Australian Native Species

Dockrillia teretifolia 'YatteYattah' (Trish Peterson)

Champion Exotic Species & Champion Specimen

Dendrochilum tenellum 'Joni-Jane' (J & M Bennett)

Champion Art:

Watercolour of *Dendrobium canaliculatum*, painted by Cary Polis

Champion Floral Art:

Bridal Bouquet, created by Lanny Pramana

One of our newer vendors, Wayne Turville of The Australian Orchid Nursery, will also be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of ANOS Sydney Group on the evening of Friday 19th August 2011. They meet at the Baulkham Hills Community Centre, Conie Ave. (off Seven Hills Road) with an 8 pm start. Wayne will be bringing some exclusive new release native *Dendrobium* seedlings that will only be available for attendees of the Fair and this Friday night meeting.

This year's St. Ives Orchid Fair and Show will be held from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st August 2011 at the usual venue of the St. Ives Showground, Mona Vale Road, St. Ives, NSW. There is plenty of free parking, and the low admission cost gets you into both the exhibition and sales pavilions. ■

John McAuley

Email: jm-orchids@optusnet.com.au

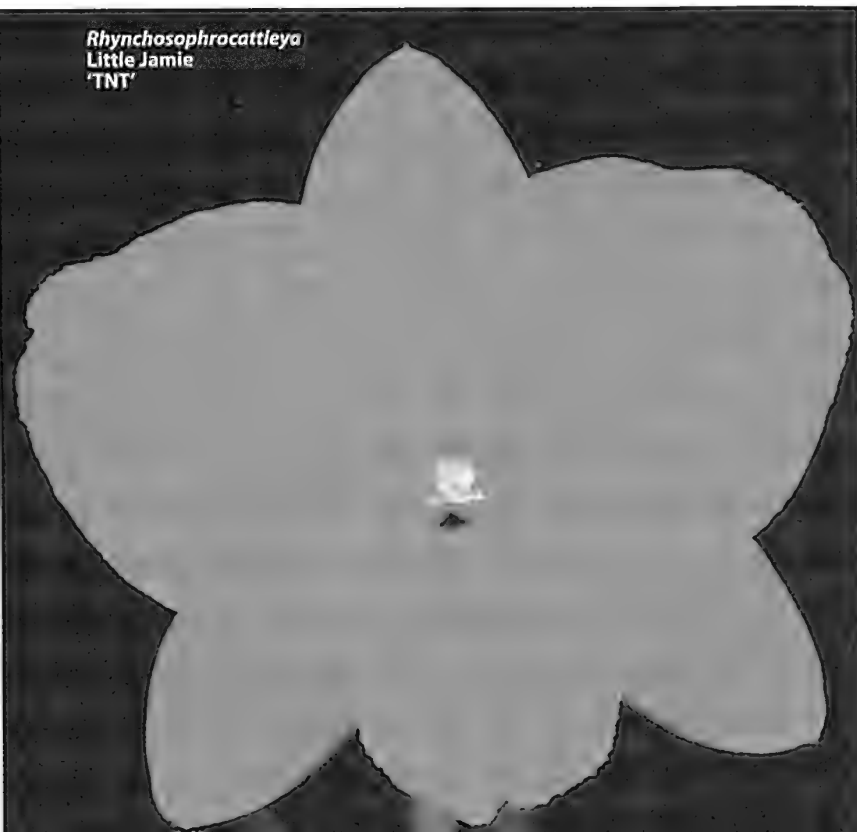
Dendrobium Avril's Gold
'Oscar'





Cymbidium Kulnura
Sweet 'Valencia'

Left:
Cymbidium Kimberley
Lagoon

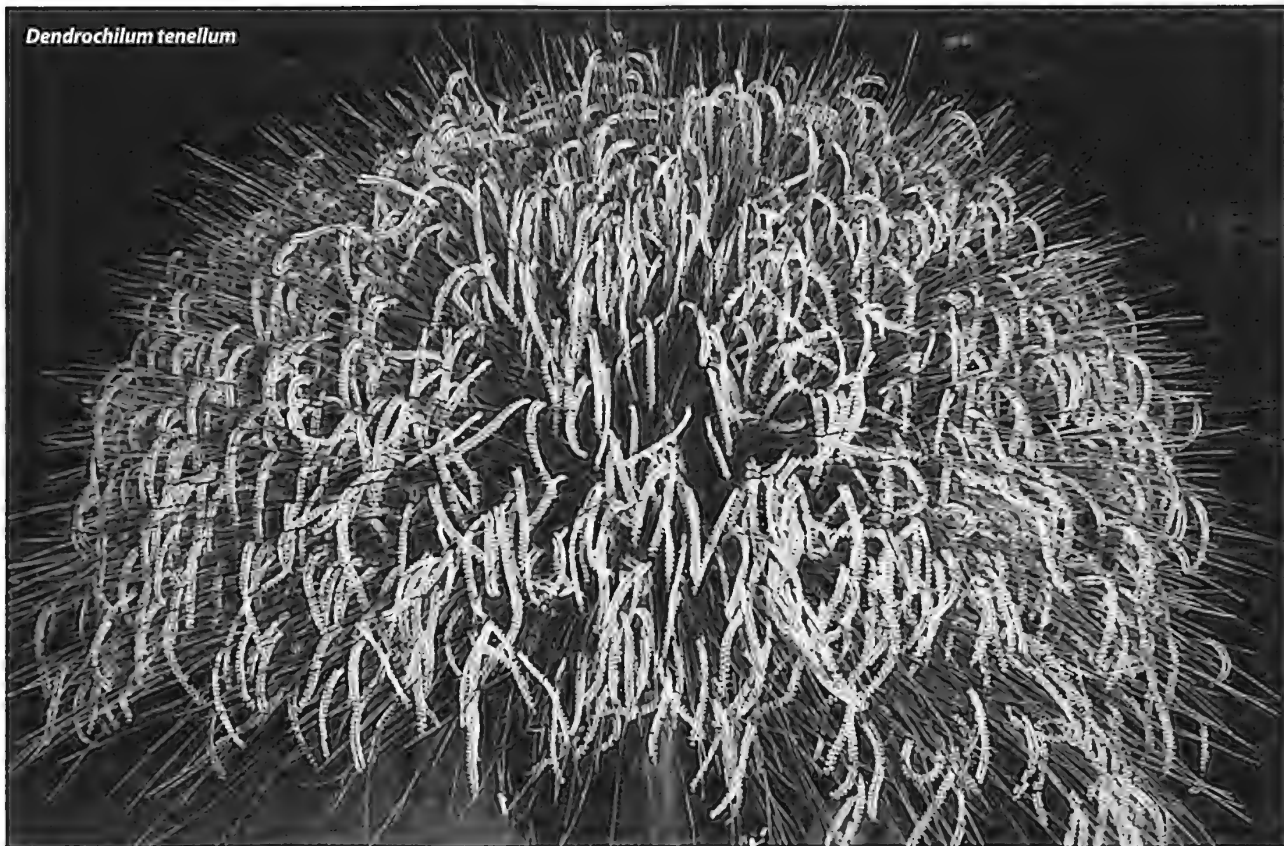


Rhynchosoprocattleya
Little Jamie
'TNT'



Phalaenopsis Yorkshire
'David'

Dendrochilum tenellum

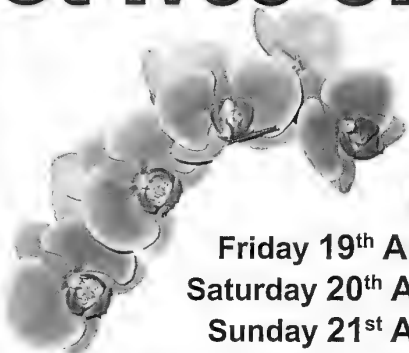


North Shore Orchid Society
display 2010



St Ives Orchid Fair

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AOR 203

Enhancement or Exaggeration?

Text and photos by Trevor Hughes (Firetail Orchids)



Above: *Cymbidium* (Red Beauty x Pretty Melody) 'Bolt'

"More is better" has been the judge's and hobby grower's motto, but much more can be too much! Here wider labellums have gone too far, resulting in a flower that is unbalanced. Of course a flower with a labellum like this (wide, short and strong) can be crossed with flowers with inferior labellums (narrow, long and furred) looking for a happy medium.

I have read the articles by Gordon Giles and Graham Morris published in the *AOR* last year with great interest and felt compelled to share my thoughts on the topics they raise. Gordon asked why we have awards, and provided valuable history on the creation of the awards system, particularly as it applies to *Cymbidiums*. Graham pointed to the increasing separation between commercial *Cymbidium* growing and show-bench *Cymbidiums*.

With my wife Pam, I run a medium-sized *Cymbidium* wholesale pot-plant nursery in Nowra, NSW. I am a former Commonwealth public servant with a degree in economics. Economists are trained to critically examine human activities. During my career I was often called upon to examine an area of concern and work out what should be done to resolve it. Unlike Gordon and Graham my orchid growing extends back barely more than a decade, so in comparison with them,

I have only dabbled in showing orchids on the show-bench. This background perhaps gives me a uniquely different viewpoint. My comments are intended to relate only to Standard and Small Standard Cymbidiums.

Graham suggests that a new class for champion grower be introduced where everyone would grow the same variety in the same sized pot. However, that would stifle development. Do we really want to be growing *Cym. Valley Splash* 'Awesome' 100 years from now? He mentions V8 car racing, but we should take our car racing inspiration from a development class like Formula 1 (F1). I note that the rules for F1 are changed very frequently to keep the racing interesting.

Gordon seems to suggest that awards should only be related to the qualities of the plant, but that horse has well and truly bolted. It is a combination of the plant and the grower that wins shows and awards.

I have long believed that the existence of a rule modifies behaviour. I have seen many examples of this behaviour

modification during my lifetime. Orchid judging guidelines have changed behaviour in both desirable and undesirable ways. They have encouraged hybridisers to seek to improve the quality of plants but they have encouraged growers to manipulate plants of inferior quality.

UK show dogs

Before we move on to orchids, I would like to examine the situation with the breeding of show dogs in the United Kingdom. Many people will have seen or heard about the BBC TV program shown on the ABC dealing with the annual dog show in the UK, Crufts, run by the Kennel Club. My memory is not what it used to be, so I only remember a few details, but my overall recollection is that the so-called standards of perfection for dog breeds that were laid down many decades ago have led to the breeding of show winning and awarded dogs that have serious malformations that often lead to constant pain and early death.

Below: *Cymbidium* (Lovely Angel x Rod) 'Magenta'

Judges would rightly mark this bloom down because of its somewhat triangular shape and less rightly because it displays colour striations. Currently it cannot, but should be able to, offset those losses by gaining points for sheer beauty of colour. This type of beauty is highly prized in the commercial world, and judging does not yet reflect that reality.





I distinctly remember the highly regarded German Shepherd that could not even walk properly because its back legs could not keep the rear of its body upright. I remember another breed where inbreeding as close as father/daughter and mother/son was perpetuating a terrible genetic disease. Other examples highlighted that enhancement of desirable traits had gone beyond the reasonable into exaggeration. Examples included seriously malformed skulls leaving insufficient room for the brain and skin rolls so pronounced that vision was obscured.

Obviously, the rules had modified the behaviour of dog breeders in ways that had not been thought of when the rules were set down. Clearly the standards of perfection should have included basic rules like "Able to walk and run well" and "Able to live a long and healthy life free from pain".

Feeling extreme embarrassment and facing almost universal condemnation, the Kennel Club has since modified its rules - including a ban on close inbreeding and "exaggeration" of desirable attributes.

Left: *Cymbidium* Gwen Thomas 'Golden Fire'

Currently this plant would lose points because the blooms are not above the foliage and with five stems in a 175mm pot it does not make any gain against a single stem plant - this is just simply wrong! Commercially, blooms above the foliage can make a plant unwieldy and harder to transport. In any case, when there are approximately 50 flowers the customer does not care if there is an odd leaf in front of a flower! Note that this plant does not have a "front" and a "back", it looks just as good from any angle, rarely the case with a single stem plant.

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Above: *Cymbidium* Gwen Thomas 'Golden Fire' has a good filled-in circular shape, with well balanced petals and sepals. However, judges would currently quibble about the sun-staining on the back of the sepals making the colour a little uneven on the front. Commercially, the sun-staining does not detract. This bloom has a true "Buy Me Now!" commercial presence that is unfortunately not yet recognised by the current judging guidelines.

Are we heading down the same road with hybrid *Cymbidiums*? I think there is a real danger that we are! The Kennel Club learnt that it is possible to have too much of a good thing. We need to at least stop and think about where we might be going and whether it might also be too far.

A fundamental feature of modern hybrids is that they are entirely man-made. They could not have been produced naturally in the wild, and have resulted from human intervention in the pollination process and human selection of breeding parents. Although early primary hybrid registrations date back into the later part of the 1800s, it was not until the early 1900s that the development of laboratory techniques for reliable germination enabled more rapid progress. I am being conservative when I say that with today's techniques,

all of the progress with *Cymbidium* hybridising to date could have been achieved in less than 100 years.

Below I make some predictions about future possible changes that may at first seem far-fetched. If that is your reaction I can only suggest that you make a detailed comparison of a species bloom and a modern hybrid bloom. The rules used by judges have driven, and will continue to drive, change, but only in the directions embodied in the rules. I have given this issue much thought and have concluded that there is no reason why we might have already reached a brick wall that we cannot go beyond. The obvious question that arises is when will enough be enough and when will it be too much?

Size

From the early days it would appear that size was seen as an attribute that

could be reasonably enhanced. The largest hybrid blooms commonly available today, at say 130mm or more in diameter, are more than twice the diameter of the species blooms they have been bred from. Isolated examples have exceeded 150mm.

The next century could easily see size more than double again into the range 250mm to 300mm in diameter. That is an average increase of a bit more than 1mm per annum. If we continue to breed for increased size I think it is reasonable to suggest that we will have gone beyond enhancement into exaggeration. It is my recommendation that points for size be removed from the judging guidelines. Further, in order to draw a line against further increases, shape points should be lost progressively from 125mm to 150mm, and blooms above 150mm excluded altogether.

Shape

We have made enormous progress on shape attributes, particularly during recent years. Some elements of shape to be enhanced were seen to be petal and sepal width, rounded petal and sepal ends, and labellum width. The petals and sepals of most of the species are quite narrow and pointed but in hybrids are now four or five times wider and often quite blunt ended. Labellums have at least doubled in width.

Looking ahead over the next century, where are we heading with the current rules and the judges' attitude to them? I predict that segment width and roundness can be increased to the point, where each petal and each sepal will be as wide as they are long and each segment will probably be circular or very nearly so. Labellum width will have doubled again, from a rough maximum today of 50mm wide, to 100mm wide.

I find myself asking whether the bloom I am describing is still a *Cymbidium* or is it really a cross between a *Phalaenopsis* and a *Cattleya*. Perhaps it is even like a German Shepherd that cannot walk?

Someone long ago, possibly a judge, decided that a circle is the optimum shape, and since that day the rest of us have followed along happily, but judges mark any deviation from a perfect circle too harshly. I read a few years ago about a *Phalaenopsis* breeder in the USA who had set himself the task of breeding a square phally in his lifetime. He will probably succeed. Shape rules also stipulate that a bloom needs to be slightly concave rather than flat (because that would allow the dubious practice of 'ironing') and neither hooded nor cupped.

The combination of certain shape rules - circular, slightly concave, not hooded or cupped - have encouraged the dubious behaviour of "packing" a flower with tissue so that a bloom of poorer quality, deficient in these attributes, is manipulated so that it appears to be better than it really is. Usually this packing is undetectable by judges. Further increases in segment width and substance are likely to lead to bloom segments that bind together and require even more undesirable human intervention to open and set properly.

The present Australian judging guidelines allocate 30% to shape. Banning manipulation will not work - we can only seek to minimise the advantage that would be gained.

I recommend that shape points be reduced to 10%. Shape points should be lost where petals, sepals and labellums are too wide and obscure one another - today's better blooms are sufficiently "filled in" already.

By the way, a somewhat cupped bloom is an ideal commercial shape, because it is less likely to be damaged during packing, transport and unpacking, and should not be as heavily penalised as it currently appears to be.

Colour

As Graham mentioned, colour is a vital element for pot-plant producers, but in my opinion we have not progressed as far as we should have during the last century. I think that this disappointing progress is because no words like "pretty" or "beautiful" appears in the colour rules.

Gordon wrote about rose growers, but I think gerberas are more relevant. In my lifetime gerberas have gone from merely pretty to gob-smackingly beautiful and have incredible colour. There are no clubs or societies for gerberas and therefore growers and breeders have not been constrained by any judging rules. They have bred for obvious attributes like productivity and beauty with much apparent success.

The key words in the guidelines are that colour should be "clear ... and not muddy ... markings ... evenly distributed". Many judges do not seem to understand that "clear" has been defined in these words as the opposite of "muddy". It is not the same as "clean" because markings are allowed!

Here the rules and their misreading has rewarded clean (often boring) but not necessarily pretty blooms. Some of my bestselling, eye-catching and prettiest blooms are those with heavy markings. The judging guidelines allocate 30% to colour. I recommend that this be reduced to 10% for colour quality.

A further 10% should be allocated to bloom beauty. The guidelines mistakenly try to make judging totally objective. Here I am saying that judges should get a spine and a bit of intestinal fortitude and stand up for their opinion on beauty. Judging is done in teams of judges, not one judge alone, so an individual judge's opinion will only be part of the team's view. I think that they will find that very often they will reach a consensus view quite easily. Obviously, we do not want one colour to always be successful over all other colours. A "for its type" rule should apply.

Floriferousness

In my opinion this is the area where more enhancements are both possible and desirable and would serve to bring show-bench and commercial growing closer together.

Currently floriferousness relates to blooms on a stem (inflorescence). Maximum points are obtained from only 13 flowers. Even a lowly 10 blooms gives seven points, almost at the average (7.5 points) required for a HCC. For the present I recommend 1 point for eight blooms, 2 points for nine, up to 10 points for 17 flowers, but these points should be moved up further as required in the future.

Until and unless there is a substantial reward for multiple spikes (so highly prized commercially), showbench *Cymbidiums* will continue to be developed with larger and larger bulbs and foliage, in larger pots, but with only minimal stems. In other words, show-bench plants will be less and less commercially relevant. Show-bench growers have learnt that shape, size and substance are all maximised if there are fewer blooms on fewer stems on a larger plant. Thus dubious practices like lead and spike removal have developed to reduce blooms on an otherwise more productive plant.

The points reductions recommended above provide the opportunity to allocate 30% to stem floriferousness. Table A suggests points for various stem and pot size combinations. In that Table I have tried to favour good performance in the smaller pot sizes of 175 and 200mm. These pot sizes are more manageable and should make showing *Cymbidiums* more accessible to women and the elderly. Stems beyond the number for maximum points also receive maximum points.

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AOB 111

Table A: Points for various stem and pot size combinations

Stems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
175mm	21	27	30						
200mm	6	21	24	27	30				
250mm	0	15	18	21	24	27	30		
300mm	0	0	0	15	18	21	24	27	30

Habit and Arrangement

The guidelines require that blooms “should stand clear of the foliage”. There are two undesirable aspects to this rule – stems are becoming too tall and growers are manipulating foliage to arch down. We should allow blooms that are in front of the foliage and/or fully visible through the foliage. The rule should state that blooms “should not be unduly obscured by the foliage”, and judges should be more on the lookout for manipulated foliage. Club members who lament that memberships are declining should favour a rule limiting stem height making plants easier to transport. Points should be lost progressively for stems above, say, 1200mm.

Overall Appearance

The days when you could present a plant with its leaves tied out of the way, many leafless back bulbs and broomsticks for stakes are behind us already. All we need to do now is acknowledge this fact by allocating ten points for overall appearance like we do for intermediates and miniatures. An added bonus is that the recommended point allocations could apply uniformly across all size classes.

Gordon has told me that, in his opinion, at least some hybridisers have erred in producing plants with oversize bulbs and foliage. I can only agree! I have not done calculations of the relative volumes but my guess is that some of the recent hybrids have bulbs that are more than ten times the size seen in the species. Points for overall appearance should be lost for oversize bulbs (and foliage) unless they carry a commensurate number of stems. Some bulbs I have seen should carry five or more stems to be reasonable.

Summary

Table B is a comparison of current points with my recommendations. In my opinion we stand at a fork in the road. To continue down our current track will take us to such exaggeration 100 years from now that the plants will no longer be recognisable as Cymbidiums. To take the path I propose will allow us to enjoy the enhancements already gained, but to add breathtaking floral display from the productivity gains that will be achieved by hybridisers and growers when their attention is firmly focused on floriferousness, particularly for more stems. If adopted, this points allocation should be reviewed no more than 50 years later.

Table B: Current and proposed point allocations

	Current	Proposed
Shape	30 points	10 points
Colour Quality	30 points	10 points
Bloom Beauty	Nil	10 points
Size	10 points	Nil
Habit and Arrangement	10 points	10 points
Floriferousness, Bloom	10 points	10 points
Floriferousness, Stems	Nil	30 points
Substance and Texture	10 points	10 points
Overall Appearance	Nil	10 points

Implementation Plan

Rule changes of this magnitude cannot be agreed one day and apply the next day. Many growers have purchased plants in the expectation that the existing rules would apply in the future. Gradual phasing in of new rules would be very confusing to growers and onerous for judges. I therefore suggest that the existing rules apply for, say, a further five years after a decision to change on a particular date in the future. During that five years, growers could begin to change over to more floriferous plants. 1 January 2017 seems like a good target date.

Would I profit from my recommendations?

My nursery, Firetail Orchids, is wholesale only and is never open to the public – we are simply too busy to deal with individual customers. My wife and I are in our mid 60s and are already thinking about retirement, so if we make it to 2017, we may not last long after that.

On the other hand we have a website (www.firetailorchids.com.au) and may make a limited number of our mericlones available by mail order. However, we certainly do not expect to do much business and will not be able to cope if demand is too brisk. We are only doing this because we flower a lot of seedlings and have jagged a few good ones. In the recent past, some of our seedlings have been made available through the annual flask list issued by our friends, Battack Orchids, but are now available through our website.

My recommendations may make pot plants more viable on the show bench, but I already sell as many plants as I can reasonably produce and have no intention of lifting production if my recommendations are adopted. The prices I charge are what I think the market will bear, and I very much doubt that adoption of my recommendations would allow me to lift prices. My motives are pure!

*Trevor Hughes
Firetail Orchids
Lot 39 Central Ave.
Nowra NSW 2541*

*Email: firetail@firetailorchids.com.au
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Phalaenopsis Orchids

My Taiwan Adventure – Part 1

Text and photos by Dr. Graham McKay

My purpose for travelling to Taiwan each year is to visit my nursery friends and to discover New Directions in *Phalaenopsis* Development. My 2011 safari was the most exciting, rewarding and extensive tour of my seven visits to Taiwan. I have made many lasting friendships with these wonderful and knowledgeable people and nursery owners.

On this occasion, I didn't visit Taipei with its many wonderful attractions or even visit the Flower Market as was my previous custom. Rather I went directly, by High Speed Train, to visit my very good friend, Mr Marshall Ku. Marshall is the Asian Director of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance similar to my role in Australia. Together we visited 13 major and smaller nurseries plus revisited many nursery owners and commercial enterprises through attendance and my Judging experience at the Taiwan International Orchid Show (TIOS).

I acquired, for my own breeding, and also for GiGi Orchids, over 100 unique varieties of new *Phalaenopsis* in addition to

several beautiful species clones. About 30 of these varieties are individual clones purchased by myself and from which I intend to make limited stem propagations for our hobby in Australia. Otherwise hobbyists would rarely have the opportunity to experience the joy of flowering such wonderful patterned and coloured examples in Australia.

In addition, I was able to spend valuable time with my nursery friends over several cups of expertly made Chinese tea, often with lunch, discussing their breeding directions and knowledgeable genetic understanding of *Phalaenopsis*. In fact, on most occasions, it was an informative two way exchange of ideas. I found this information most valuable and I will elaborate in future articles and on the GiGi Orchids Website (www.gigiorchids.com.au).

Most of the Orchid Nurseries are based in the middle and southern parts of Taiwan, many in Chiayi, Tainan and Pintung Counties. The following is a very short synopsis of a few of the friends I had the pleasure of visiting:

1. TIANNONG ORCHIDS – MR C WU

This nursery was in the process of constructing two small quarantine houses for overseas export. Mr Wu developed the exciting variety *Dtps.* Tiannong Glory which won the Harlequin Section of APOC 2004 receiving a Silver Medal.

He had a few very impressive varieties all of which will become available as mature flowering size plants after a Quarantine Holiday with the DPI and/or stem propagations in the fullness of time. *Dtps.* Tiannong Diamond Glory 'GiGi', *Dtps.* Tiannong Gabi and *Dtps.* [Jiuhbao Red Rose x *Dtps.* Tiannong Duke] were a few of the varieties obtained.



Above: *Dtps.* Tiannong Diamond Glory 'GiGi'



Above: *Dtps.* Tiannong Gabi



Dtps. [Jiuhbao Red Rose x Tiannong Duke]



Above: Mr & Mrs Wen Ming with *Dtps. KV Charmer*

2. WEN MING ORCHIDS – MR MING

This gentleman has an absolutely superb facility which I visited for the first time. Hobbyists will be able to acquire several new varieties in flowering size and some in mericlone form much later. As with many nurseries, excellent varieties are often Trade Marked and sold in total to Europe and as a result we will probably never see them in this country. One of the photos shows Mr Ming and his wife with the *Dtps. K. V. Charmer* clone which originally brought me to his nursery. It has been purchased by a good friend from Europe who now has the exclusive rights. I do the same thing with selected varieties in order to make 50 to 100 stem propagations exclusively for Australian hobbyists.

Mr Ming has miniature varieties through to exquisite standard exhibition varieties. He also had many new colour presentations, such as a sunset red-yellow form created by a hybrid cross of the dark pink *Dtps. Juihboa Red Rose* with a dark yellow. I obtained twenty varieties from Mr Ming.



Above: *Dtps. Wen Ming Little Snowly*

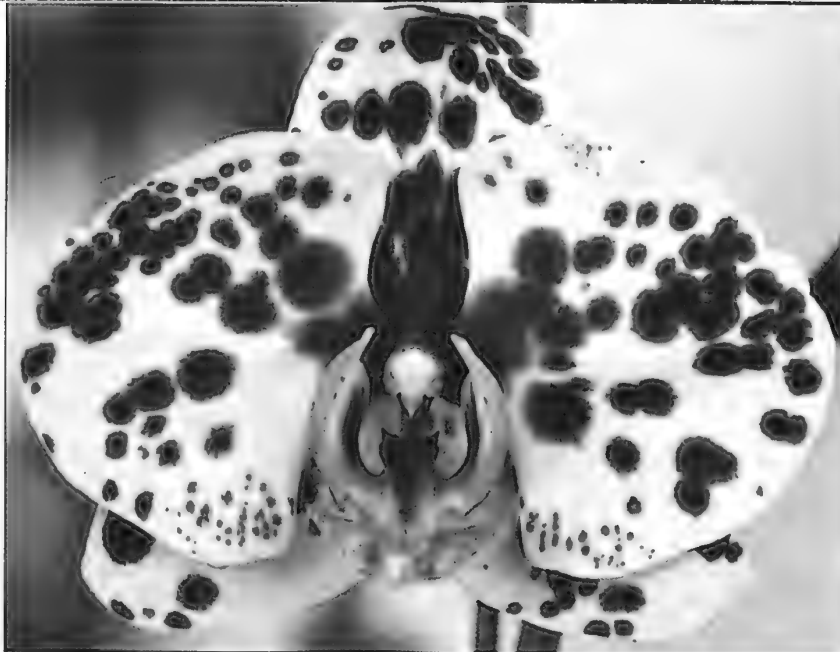


Right: *Dtps. [I-Hsin Sun x Juihboa Red Rose] 'Wen Ming'*

3. FU-SHENG HUANG

I often comment about this gentleman's breeding of Purple-Violet Black Harlequins. His plants can cost up to \$4000.00. I did, however obtain seven beautiful, selected clones all of which I will be making stem propagations. I was able to select three lovely clones of *Dtps.* Fusheng's Star Dust from over one thousand flowering plants. I am honoured to have such a privileged relationship with this man.

I was also stunned by the flowering results of the crosses of his Purple-Violet Black Harlequin breeding which he is just first flowering from the same crosses of his breeding which GiGi Orchids released on their lists recently. My advice is to acquire them while you can, both his breeding and the outcrosses by Mr Hung (Tying Shin Orchids).



Above: *Dtps.* Fusheng Star Dust 'GiGi #2'



Left: *Dtps.* Fusheng Purple Velvet-Mount Hybrid

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4. TYING SHIN ORCHIDS – MR K HUNG

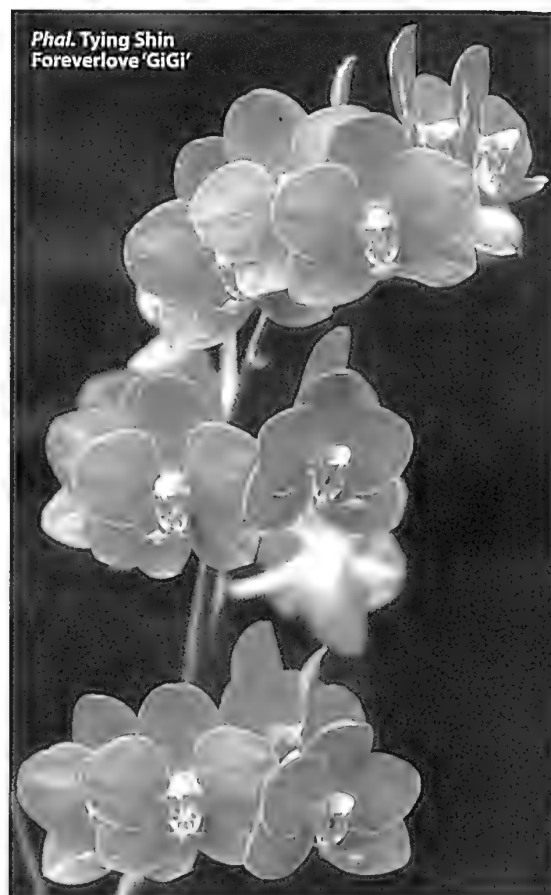
Tying Shin Orchids is one of the most awarded breeders in the history of the AOS. This year my special friend was very busy but I still obtained first pick of his new breeding in the novelty area. I selected four unique variety clones of the first flowering plants of hybrid crosses that were recently listed by GiGi Orchids. I am actually tempted to request withdrawing their availability of such crosses as the depth of colour on these new hybrids is outstanding. *Phal.* Tying Shin Forever Love 'GiGi' is a major structural plant for my breeding program. It had four spikes of beautiful orange long lasting flowers. I now have high quality breeding clones of most of Mr Hung's varieties in Australia.

The results of Mr Hung's breeding in Yellow, Red Lip Yellow, Big Lip Breeding, Harlequins including Miniatures, are also very impressive.

Right: *Phal.* [Tying Shin Baby Smile x Golden Rose] 'GiGi'



Above: *Phal.* [Tying Shin Baby Smile x Tying Shin Golden Rose] 'GiGi'



Phal. Tying Shin Foreverlove 'GiGi'

5. LIOULIN ORCHIDS – MR G HUANG

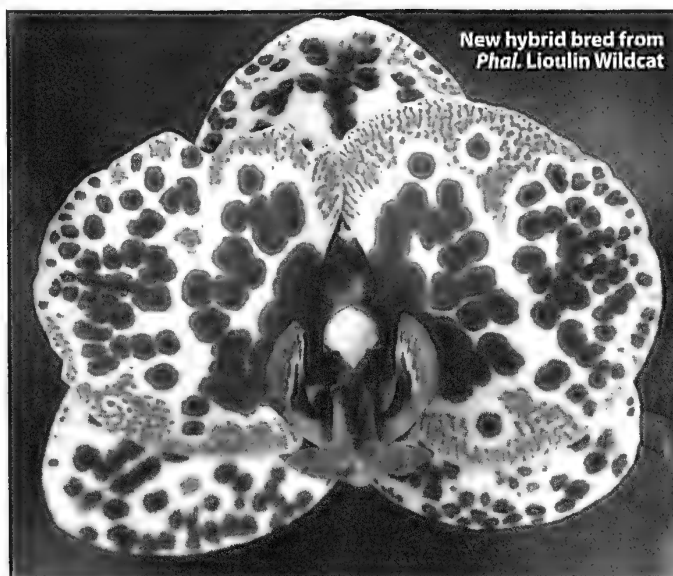
Mr Huang is a Government Engineer and his nursery has been progressively taking over a large leased greenhouse of recent years. His breeding of miniatures is very impressive and he has registered many hybrids which are sold to larger nurseries for their sales distribution.

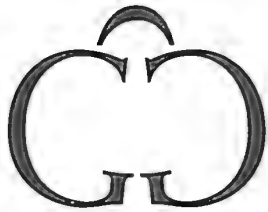
Among other varieties I acquired were *Dtps. Lioulin Leopard* 'GiGi' and *Dtps. Yu Pin Fireworks* 'GiGi's Beauty'. The latter is the principal stud plant of this variety and a real gem. It was interesting to also confirm the breeding results of *Dtps. Lioulin Wildcat* which is a variety that I have been using in my breeding program. I hold three clones of this hybrid and saw the first two flowering plants of his new hybrids using *Dtps. Lioulin Wildcat* as a parent. Still it is encouraging to see that my own breeding is likely to confirm the opinion that Lioulin Wildcat is an exceptional stud breeding plant.

This brief discussion of the breeding accomplishments of five of my Taiwanese friends cannot cover all the varieties and genetic information I have gleaned from their progressive work. It should, however, enable everyone to see that Australia is by no means the centre of the *Phalaenopsis* World. It does confirm that with the correct genetic material, we can create our own marvellous hybrids using Taiwanese and other unique Aussie hybrids.

May fortune favour the progress of my friends in Taiwan as well as our own breeding programs in Australia. Our 'Guarantee of Excellence' will come from using the best clones of the newly developed varieties from the *Phalaenopsis* Centre of the World – Taiwan.

Dr. Graham McKay
Australian Director
International Phalaenopsis Alliance
PO Box 874
Toowong Qld 4066





GIGI ORCHIDS

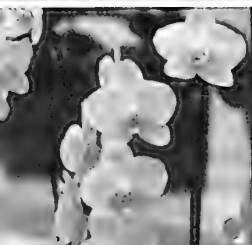

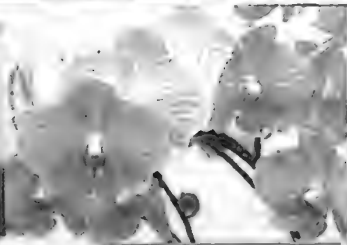

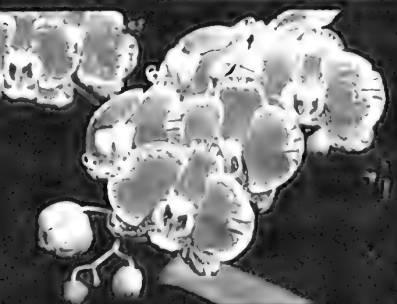






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Paphiopedilum vietnamense

Orchids *in* Vietnam

Text & photos by Jean Shergold

I have recently returned from Vietnam where I was researching what Vietnam has to offer for the tour we plan for after the 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore in November 2011. What a race of very friendly helpful people the Vietnamese are. Their main mode of transport is motorbikes making crossing the road a bit of nightmare, until you learn to walk slowly across the road and all the bikes go around you!

I found lots of orchids, as many homes have orchids on their front verandas in their gardens and on their rooftops. Their appreciation of orchids is wonderful even though they may not know their botanical names - but they love them. Most nurseries are growing for the cut flower market, mainly cymbidiums and hardcane dendrobiums but often have an area set aside for some species for their own enjoyment.

In Hanoi I visited the orchid collection of Mrs Tuyet, President of the Hanoi Orchid Club, which she proudly houses five stories up on the roof of her home, quite an extensive collection for such a small area. Land is very expensive so homes are long and narrow but three four or five stories high with no land available to build orchid houses on. Any space will have an orchid placed in it.

In Dalat I visited a nursery with a large collection of species with such gems as *Dendrobium trantuanii*, *Dendrobium hancockii* and *Paphiopedilum hangianum* just to mention a few. I was in seventh heaven not knowing which plant to photograph next. This nursery also does flasking but in plastic bags sealed with a paperclip thus the flasks are not suitable to be imported into Australia.

Right:
Paphiopedilum
emersonii



Below:
Paphiopedilum
hangianum



Below: Mrs Tuyet and Jean Shergold



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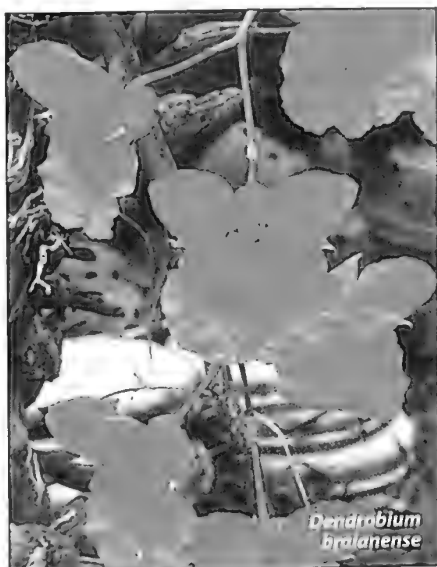
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Coelogyne lawrenceana



Dendrobium bellatulum



Dendrobium braianense



Dendrobium hancockii



Dendrobium secundum

I travelled by train to Sapa travelling overnight with four people per cabin, it is safe and comfortable. I shared with a couple from France on the way up and a young couple on their honeymoon on the way down making for an interesting conversation at the beginning and end of the journey.

Sapa like Dalat is in the cool highlands, and they are also pretty cities due to their lovely homes built in French style architecture during French occupation for relief of the hotter lowlands. Lots of the homes in Sapa have orchids on the verandas or trees making for an interesting stroll around the town.

The Ham Rong Orchid gardens here in Sapa has an extensive orchid collection trying to save Vietnam species from extinction due to the locals collecting plants to sell at the markets to eke out a living. At almost any time one would expect orchids in flower in this garden. When the tour visits Sapa we plan a day in the jungle to find some of that regions indigenous species.

The main genera one would expect to see in Vietnam are dendrobiums, paphiopedilums and cymbidiums. I would like to thank Hguyen Tuan Anh and his guides for the time and effort put to show me the delights of Vietnam. ■

Jean Shergold
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Below: *Dendrobium tritonopis*



Left: *Dendrobium wardianum*



Dendrobium uniflorum

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Above: Ellenborough Falls (*photo Andrew Locke*)

Tinonee Orchids Open Day *and* Show

Text & photos by David Banks

This year's annual Tinonee Orchids Open Day and Show will be held on Sunday 10th July 2011 at Ray & Lorraine Clement's nursery on 768 Tinonee Road, Tinonee (just 10 minutes drive out of Taree – along the Buckets Way, on the NSW Mid-north Coast). This will be the 17th Annual Open Day. Contact the nursery on 02 65531012 for further details. There is plenty of accommodation available close-by in Taree and Wingham, for those who would like to make a weekend out of it.

Parramatta and District Orchid Society, in conjunction with Tinonee Orchid Nursery, facilitated a bushwalk on the Saturday before the Open Day at Ellenborough Falls NSW (about 40km northwest of Taree). Many of us (about 45) had already enjoyed a splendid evening and three course meal at Ray & Lorraine's the previous evening, so we were ready for

a big day! We were blessed with a still, sunny day after overnight rain freshened up the bushland. Just over 50 participated in the walks led by Dennis Sinclair, John Riley, Mike Harrison & myself. Apart from PDOS members (and their partners) we were also joined by enthusiasts from ANOS Sydney Group and interstate visitors from Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

The emphasis on the day was on the numerous epiphytic species that abound on or near the cliff-line. We did see some leaves of terrestrial species from the genera *Acianthus*, *Chiloglottis*, *Corybas* and *Pterostylis* – however none of these were in flower. It is interesting to note the variation in the orchid flora depending on their precise location, habitat and microclimate. The following 17 species were recorded on the day.

EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS OF ELLENBOROUGH FALLS

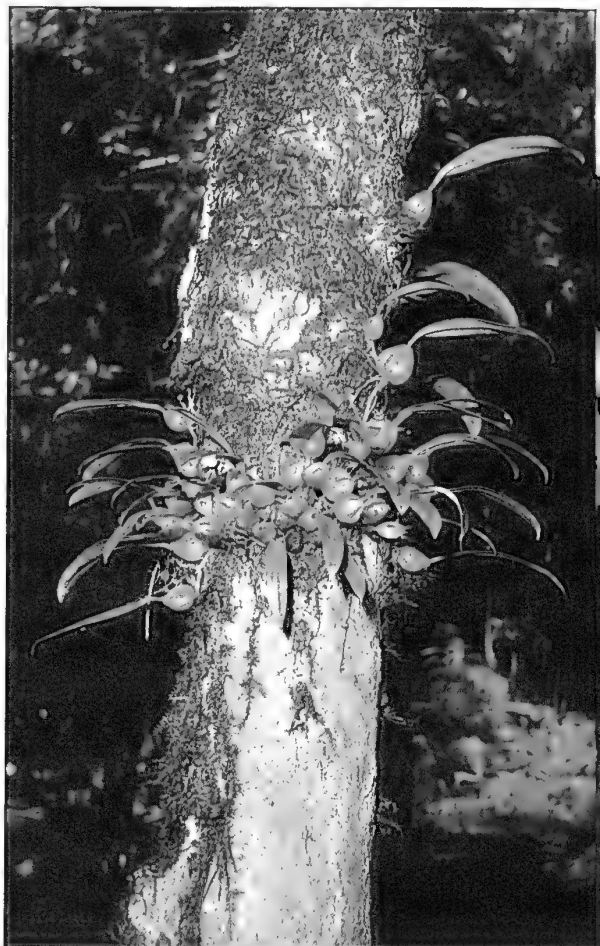
Species	Habitat
1. <i>Bulbophyllum elisae</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line
2. <i>Bulbophyllum exiguum</i>	Epiphyte in forest
3. <i>Bulbophyllum shepherdii</i>	Epiphyte in forest (in bud & flower)
4. <i>Cymbidium suave</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line
5. <i>Dendrobium aemulum</i> (Brush Box form)	Epiphyte on cliff-line
6. <i>Dendrobium gracilicaule</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line
7. <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	Lithophyte on cliffs
8. <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> subsp. <i>hillii</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line and lithophyte
9. <i>Dockrillia pugioniformis</i>	Epiphyte in dark forest
10. <i>Dockrillia schoenina</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line
11. <i>Papillilabium beckleri</i>	Twig epiphyte near creek
12. <i>Plectorrhiza tridentata</i>	Twig epiphyte on cliff-line
13. <i>Rhinerrhiza divitiflora</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line
14. <i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line and forest
15. <i>Sarcochilus hillii</i>	Twig epiphyte on cliff-line
16. <i>Sarcochilus olivaceus</i>	Epiphyte on cliff-line and forest
17. <i>Sarcochilus spathulatus</i>	Twig epiphyte on cliff-line



Above: Observing the native orchids at the Ellenborough Falls Lookout
(photo Andrew Locke)

Right:
Bulbophyllum exiguum
growing on the rainforest
fringe at Ellenborough Falls
(photo Andrew Locke)

Below: *Dockrillia schoenina* plants in exposed position at Ellenborough Falls
(photo Andrew Locke)



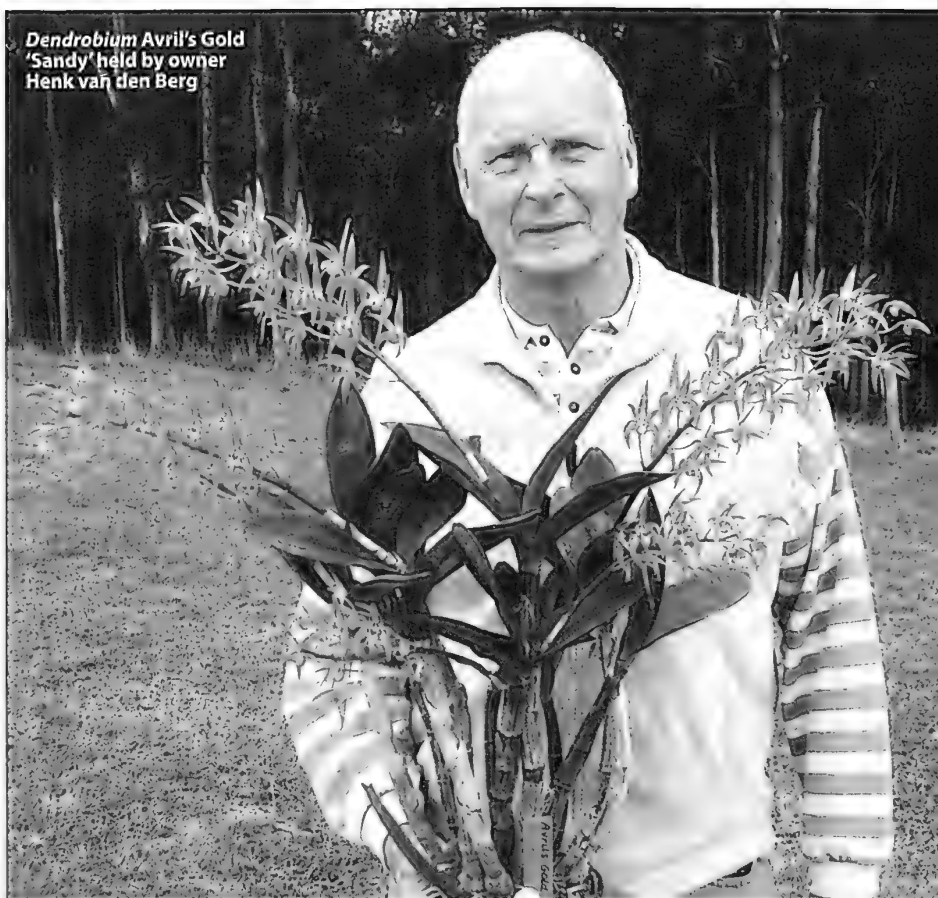
On previous visits we have also found the following species. Some of these involved much longer walks and often in precarious positions among rocks and cliffs, not the place to take 50 odd people! *Bulbophyllum schillerianum* (possibly its southern most record), *Dockrillia mortii*, *Liparis coelogynoides*, *Sarcochilus aequalis* & *Sarcochilus eriochilus*. The last two lithophytic *Sarcochilus* were previously known as the "southern forms" of *S. hartmannii* and *S. ceciliae* respectively, and reach their southern distribution at Ellenborough Falls. They grow in a very dangerous position (for humans)!

It was surprising to see serious "cold" damage on a number of different plant species, including a few orchids. We saw plants of *Sarcochilus falcatus* completely blackened (and killed) by the cold, whilst numerous examples of *Dendrobium gracilicaule* had either dropped leaves or were frost burnt. We were told by the lady at the kiosk that the temperatures got down to minus 8 degrees Celsius on "that" cold morning at the end of June 2010.

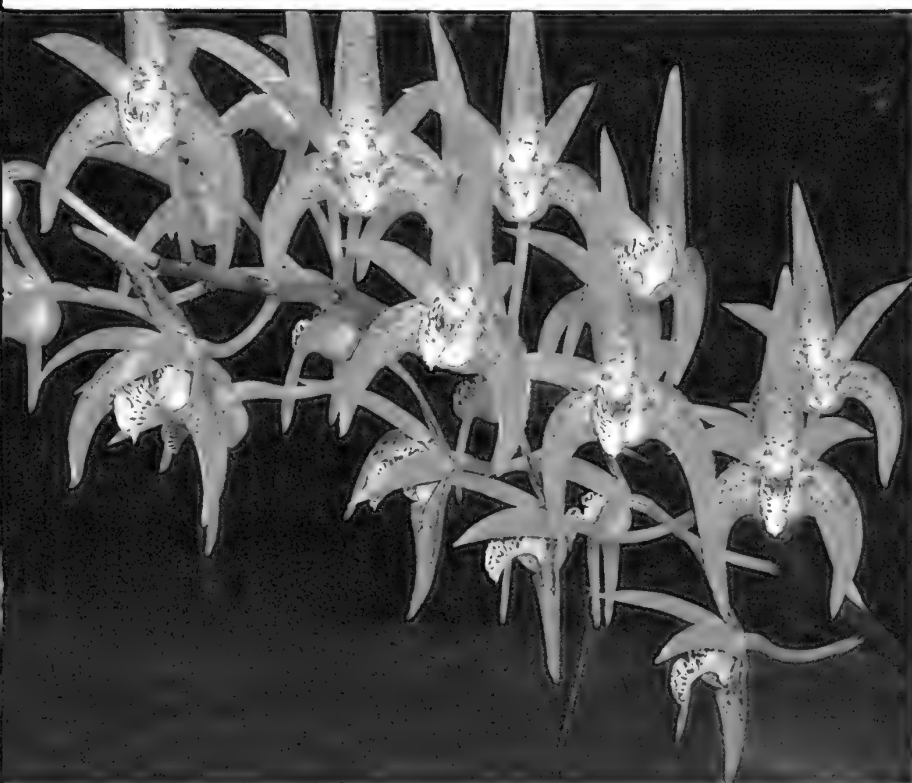
Ray Clement had organised a Sausage Sizzle (and some great jacket potatoes!) for us after our walk, and it was enjoyed by all the participants on the day. Thanks to Dennis, John and Co. who were the expert chefs!

In the afternoon, about half the group went on to near Wherrol Flat, where we saw *Dockrillia linguiformis* growing on Red Cedar and River Oaks. On the nearby rock formations we searched for *Dendrobium kingianum*. Eventually a few plants were found, but what was disturbing was that the plants appeared to be virus infected. There were also many more very healthy *Dockrillia linguiformis* at home on the rocks as well. Overall, another great day in the bush! Later that evening we all enjoyed great food and company at the Taree Golf Club.

Next morning was the Show, and there were some outstanding plants again on display, with many exhibitors (with some well-travelled plants) and an impressive array of a variety of choice native and exotic orchids in both species and hybrids. The variety of uncommon genera seems to increase yearly at this Show – with visitors treated to a plethora of eclectic orchids in bloom.



Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Sandy' held by owner Henk van den Berg



The early-flowering Australian native *Dendrobium* hybrids are always the main theme and feature of this Show, with many proven cultivars and quality new seedlings benched by a number of competitive enthusiasts such as Don Cruickshanks, Henk van den Berg and Wayne Perrin. Henk's impressive plant of *Dendrobium* Avril's Gold 'Sandy' was judged to be the best native hybrid of the show. This slow-growing and somewhat cantankerous hybrid looks stunning when well grown, but it certainly isn't an orchid that appreciates being disturbed or divided.

At the conclusion of the Show, the various awards and prizes were presented, raffles drawn, and then it was time to pack up and look forward to next year's event.

Left: *Dendrobium* Avril's Gold 'Sandy'
(Henk van den Berg)
Champion Australian
Native Hybrid 2010



**Above: *Dendrobium*
Esme Poulton 'Tinonee'**
(Tinonee Orchids)
– a choice cultivar of this
primary hybrid between
kingianum and *bigibbum*

The next day, Ray Clement, Andrew Locke (President of ANOS Sydney Group) and I headed bush again, this time to Yarratt State Forest. We were searching primarily for *Cymbidium madidum* that had been collected in the area over a decade ago by a bushman off a fallen tree. A division of that plant is now in Ray's private collection. What is significant about this, is that is the Southernmost record of this species, and we hoped to find a colony of plants, or even a single example! We spent most of our time in the Southern end of the state forest and whilst we saw large numbers of *Cymbidium suave* (including some very old and enormous specimens) we could not find its larger growing relative. By the time we got to the northern end of the forest, light was fading – yet the vegetation type (wet sclerophyll) looked a lot more promising of turning up a *madidum*. Maybe next time!



**Right: *Dendrobium*
(Angellene x Hilda Poxon)**
(Henk van den Berg)

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***Dendrobium* (Golden Glory
x Sunglow) (Wayne Perrin)
has outstanding colour
derived from multiple
influences of *fleckeri*
(photo Andrew Locke)**

On Saturday 9th July 2011, a bushwalk is being organised again by Parramatta and District Orchid Society to Dingo Tops (Tapin Tops National Park) and Rowley's Rock, a wonderful high-elevation area about 1 hours drive from Tinonee, where you will have the opportunity of seeing many different orchid species growing in the wild. We will be leaving Tinonee Orchids, by own transport, promptly at 9.00am. There is an easy walk or a walk requiring a modest level of fitness. Bring your camera as the views are stunning. A sausage sizzle lunch will be provided at no cost. If you wish to participate, please contact Parramatta and District Orchid Society by phoning the Secretary Bev Clifford on 02 96357790 or through their website at www.parramattaorchidsociety.org

Again, there will be a raffle of donated prizes with all proceeds given to support Retina Australia – Fighting Blindness (www.retinaaustralia.com.au) and research into Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), a genetic degenerative eye disease. We hope you will help us support this very important cause.

This year will again feature potting demonstrations and advice from experienced orchid growers. There will also be numerous special plants for first release and others at special discounts. Food and light refreshments will be available all day. This has certainly turned into a most enjoyable and essential event on the annual orchid calendar. ■

David Banks

Seven Hills, NSW

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***Dendrobium* Warringah
'Purple Heaven'
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wonderful and robust
primary hybrid between
bigibbum and *speciosum***



Left: *Dendrobium hodkinsonii*
(Easy Orchids)
a rare New Guinea
species grown by
Murray Shergold

**Below: *Dendrobium*
(*convolutum* x *bigibbum*)**
(Don Cruickshanks)

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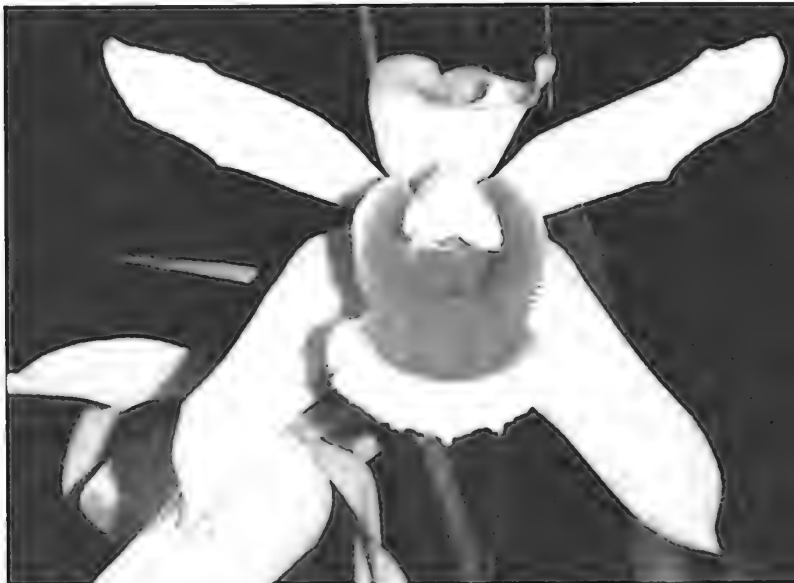
Dochilila Tweetas
(Fred Fear)



Above: *Pterostylis grandiflora*
(Callyn Farrell)



Below: *Coelogyne* Mem. Louis Forget
(John Meldrum) primary hybrid between *speciosa* and *mooreana*



Left: *Cymbidium* Khan Flame 'Nahlah'
(Rob Wells) another quality clone of this fine hybrid



Above left: *Epidendrum (veroscriptum x barbeyanum)*
unusual green-flowered hybrid with plastic-like blooms



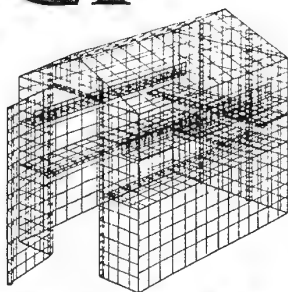
Above right: *Bardendrum Nanboh Pixy* (Norm & Val Shipway)
a striking intergeneric between *Barkeria* and *Epidendrum*

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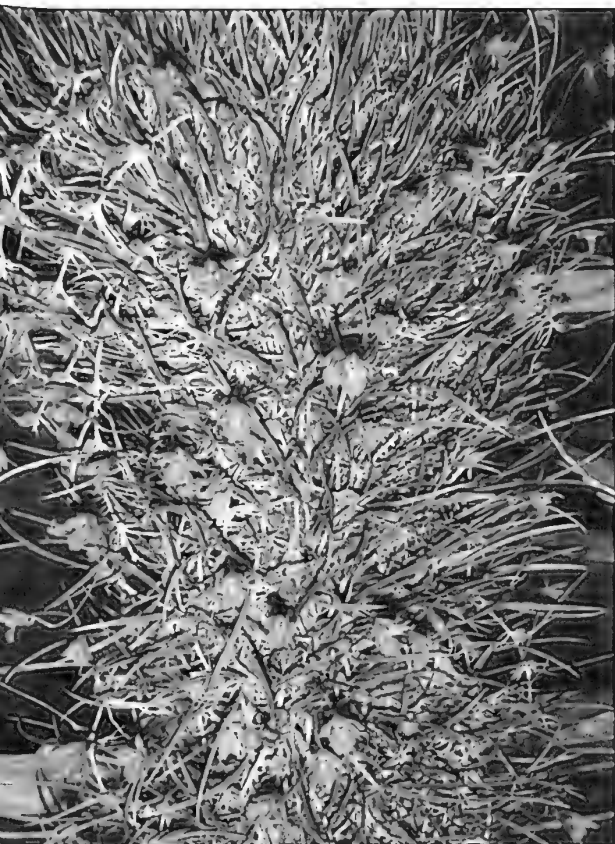


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Left: *Neolauchea pulchella*
(Sid Burton) wonderful specimen of this easily grown Brazilian species that some taxonomists place in the genus *Isabelia*

Above: *Laelia lucasiana*
(Sue McNaughton) bench as *kettiana*, this is a delightful miniature

Below: *Oncidium onustum*
(Don Cruickshanks) syn. *Zelenkoa onusta*

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Above: *Oncidium (sotoanum x forbesii)*
'Good One' (David Butler)
a new primary hybrid using as a
pod parent the orchid previously
well-known as *Onc. ornithorhynchum*

Left:
Jumellea sagittata
(Tinonee Orchids)

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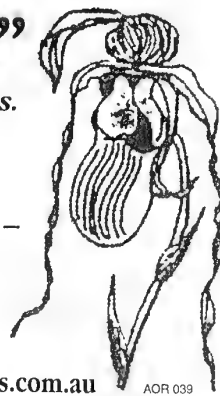
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Right:
Paphiopedilum venustum
forma measuresianum
(Tinonee Orchids)
the rare albino form



Below: Huge specimen
of *Cymbidium suave*
growing in an old
bloodwood at
Yarratt State Forest, NSW
(photo Andrew Locke)



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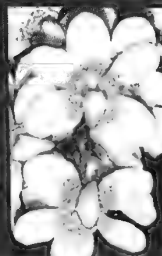
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Above: Part of the predominantly Parramatta and District Orchid Society group at Ellenborough Falls 10th July 2010

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Nanna Orchids, Beasties *and* Back-bulbs

by Wayne Turville

It would be lovely to go just one week without an email or phone call to the nursery asking why has my Moth Orchid (*Phalaenopsis*) dropped its buds or more commonly just died! In an era of fast food, fast reality TV and instant gratification, Phallies seem to be the fast food of the orchid world.

They turn up in Florists, boutique nurseries, giant chain supermarkets and even the mega hardware chains. Unfortunately for many they are their first orchid and sometimes their last. Please don't misunderstand me, they are glorious to behold, large showy and extremely long lasting. They last far far longer than a bunch of cut blooms and look so elegant on coffee tables and new white bathrooms.

Many green thumbs regularly boast that it has been in bloom for 12 or more months and many even re-bloom them regularly. But for the average Joe in an average home in an average suburb and more so down South they usually lead to disappointment. Hence the phone calls that so punctuate our busy nursery days.

As a gift I can't think of a better plant. Competitively priced, and oh so sophisticated. But for plant lovers who feel confident with their horticultural skills it's all so very simple. It's a tropical, fleshy, humidity loving orchid that grows far far north from where the rest of us live. Tears and tantrums are frequent when the advice to throw it out is given. But it was a gift for our anniversary. They are coming around next week and I've killed it!

Just after Christmas we were receiving a phone call a day about Phallies and enough was enough. We were starting to say "Did you buy it from us?" No, so

why call us? As politely as we could. Trying to get the right advice from a mega store is like arguing with a bank.

So here it is right on the chin. They are in my opinion a disposable orchid pot plant. When it starts to fade, drop buds or go limp and flaccid turf it out.



Above: A selection of *Phalaenopsis* hybrids

The second option is to cut the flowering stem two to three nodes from the base with a very sharp quick cut. A node is the bamboo knuckle like ring on the flower stem. Around half the time these may re-sprout with another flower stem. This takes many months to mature but at least you will have a fresh flower.

The right condition for a long lasting and happy Phally is a centrally heated home with bright large windows and a breezy environment. Modern apartments in the city are suited. They love humidity so a cheap atomiser or spray bottle and a simple mist whenever possible over the leaves but not the blooms. Keep the compost just moist and watch the leaves don't go too floppy.

We sell out of our Phallies every week but advise each and every customer to understand that they are in most cases a replacement for a short lived bunch of flowers.

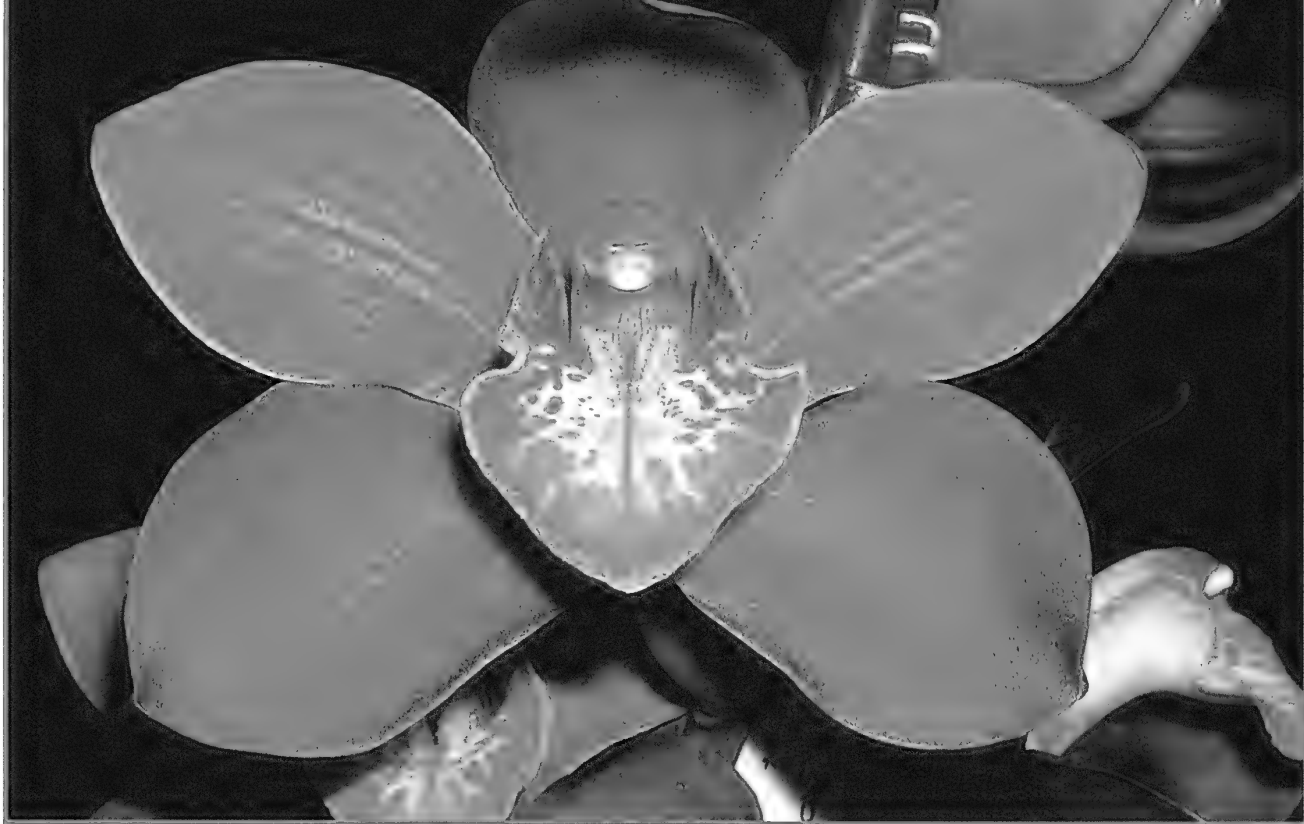
Further north, such as Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast I'm sure they would thrive (as would we all) but Cairns tips the other way with just too much humidity and associated fungal and bacterial problems.

In summary they ARE the world's favourite orchid but with a catch!

Cymbidiums are now showing flower spikes for 2011, and here in Melbourne it looks like a bumper of a season ahead. A near record cool summer and colder January and February nights have initiated the spikes well. In South Australia Moss Bray from Sims Orchids has predicted an above average season as has Graham Guest from Guests Orchids. In Sydney, Keith Wallace and Gordon Giles have predicted a very very good season. Cool nights below 15°C have been

the key.

The word is that if you don't get good spiking this year, perhaps it's time to look at your orchid culture to see how you can improve. Remember a bleached lemon coloured foliated *Cymbidium* often blooms far better than a deep green foliage one. It's always the older



Above: *Cymbidium Mutawa 'Infra Red'* AD/AOC 1982

"Nanna Orchids" that bloom like crazy in garden situations. *Cymbidium lowianum*, *grandiflorum* and *traceyanum* bloom so easily even with neglect. The older *Cymbidium* varieties seem so much hardier than the modern cabbages.

It's so important to stake your *Cymbidium*. This prevents them arching over so low that slugs and snails can travel up the stems to reach the blooms. Staking also makes the orchid more transportable so you can bring it inside. A simple fresh green bamboo stake and a little plastic coated wire works well. The trick is knowing when to pull up the inflorescence. Too soon and it may break. Too late and the blooms will be upside down as they have set in place. Peeling off the soft papery protective sheath from the flower stem discourages "Beasties" such as slugs, slaters and millipedes from hiding close to the blooms. It also stops water holding in the sheaths and potentially causing rots.

The greatest problem occurs when tiny sluglings nibble at the young developing *Cymbidium* flower stem. This causes scarring that weakens the spike. When it is pulled up, it inevitably cracks and breaks, causing a rush of foul language to be heard by the neighbours! Another year's work down the drain.

Another thing I have noticed lately is customers asking to buy *Cymbidium* Bulbs. Once open a time we all propagated *Cymbidiums* by **backbulbs**. These were removed from the orchid, cleaned and dehusked and then placed in a plastic bag with a little damp sphagnum. After three to four months they were well rooted and ready to plant with an all new growth shooting away. The method still works well and we apply it to our best orchids and sell as a piece of the original as opposed to a Mericlone.

Back bulbs though are a sign that not all is well, I'm afraid. The defoliation is usually a sign that the root system is rotting or the orchid is starved of nutrient. Transportable nutrients are being moved from the older region of the orchid up to the front when the new growth is occurring. This causes the foliage to drop just like an autumn leaf!

If you have a large percentage of *cymbids* with backbulbs, check the roots and apply a balanced orchid food with calcium such as Peters Hi K. If you prefer organic styled orchid food remember that it only works well during the warmer months when microbial action breaks down the more complicated Ammonias to more plant friendly forms of nitrogen. At cooler times of the year

toxic reactions may occur. A yearly drench of Limestone powder and water seems to help also. About two teaspoons per ten litres. It is normal in autumn to have moderate leaf drop so don't panic and start overfeeding.

Another great tip is to have a rock of some sort in your potting media. This stops your orchids rolling down the veranda next wind storm. Even a half brick in the bottom of larger orchid pots helps.

After a summer of floods in South-East Queensland and Northern Victoria, Cyclones in north east Queensland and fires in Western Australia it has been an infamous summer.

A good customer of mine lost all his orchids in Grantham and heaven help those around Mission Beach and Cardwell. I worry for all the magnificent colonies of native orchids behind Tully and on Mount Bartle Frere and Mount Spec.

I would be interested to hear from those whose orchids suffered from these misadventures so we can share your experiences. It may help those who may incur similar troubles in the future. ■

Wayne Turville
Australian Orchid Nursery
Tyabb, Victoria

Website: www.australianorchids.com.au

Bulbophyllum falcatum

A Tropical African species with many names

by Rudolf Jenny

Like many other orchid species which are relatively common in a very wide distribution area, *Bulbophyllum falcatum* is extremely variable in several aspects and - as a result of variability and its distribution area - was described under quite a few different epithets (species names) in three different genera. Today no less than 24 names in *Bulbophyllum*, 20 names in *Megaclinium* and 3 names in *Phyllorchis* are attributed to *Bulbophyllum falcatum* and its two varieties. For some of the synonyms published drawings are available, of most of them we have only the type-specimens and/or the descriptions. The published illustrations are shown in this paper, together with the taxonomic background and a checklist of all synonyms.

The genus *Megaclinium* was mentioned by John Lindley for the very first time in 1824 in the *Botanical Register* in a footnote of Plate 832. The formal description of the genus followed in 1826, again by Lindley in the *Botanical Register* and together with the description of the type species of the new genus, *Megaclinium falcatum*. The plant Lindley used for his description was sent in 1822 by George Don from Sierra Leone in Africa to the Horticultural Society in London and flowered there for the first time in April 1825. Plate 989 in the *Botanical Register* is based on Lindley's own drawing'. The generic name is derived from the combination of the Greek words for wide or large (megas) and a little bed (klinion) and refer to the form of the inflorescence. The discussion whether Lindley's genus *Megaclinium* should be separated from the older genus *Bulbophyllum* started when Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach fil. published in *Walpers Annales Botanices Systematicae* the recombination of six *Megaclinium* species into the genus *Bulbophyllum* (named *Bolbophyllum* by Reichenbach). Beside *Bulbophyllum falcatum* (Ldl.) Rchb.f., the author recombined also two species which are today considered to be varieties of *Bulbophyllum falcatum*: *Bulbophyllum velutinum* and *Bulbophyllum*

bufo. In spite of the fact that in 1861 Reichenbach recombined several species from *Megaclinium* to *Bulbophyllum*, he described *Megaclinium melanorrhachis* in 1875 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* after a plant bought by Wilson Saunders at an auction organised by the nursery Bull, originally imported from Sierra Leone. At the beginning of the article and the Latin description, the species is named *Megaclinium melanorrhachis*, at the end of the Latin description it is named explicitly *Bulbophyllum (Bolbophyllum) melanorrhachis* (today the species is considered a synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*). The same thing happened again in 1888 when Reichenbach described in the same way parallel *Megaclinium oxyodon* and *Bulbophyllum oxyodon* (today the species is considered a synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum*). The plant was from the collection of Major Lendy, Sunbury House, England, and was said to have been imported from Madagascar.

Although Reichenbach considered 1861 Lindley's genus *Megaclinium* only as a section of the genus *Bulbophyllum*, most other taxonomists, especially Kraenzlin and Pfitzer followed Lindley's concept to keep this group of plants in its own genus *Megaclinium*. Today *Megaclinium* is - because of the similarity between *Megaclinium* and *Bulbophyllum* - accepted only as infragenetic part of *Bulbophyllum*. On which level within *Bulbophyllum* finally *Megaclinium* will be eventually accepted and positioned, is difficult to say. The group seems to be endemic to Africa, and some of its species such as *Bulbophyllum falcatum* are often seen in specialist collections in cultivation.

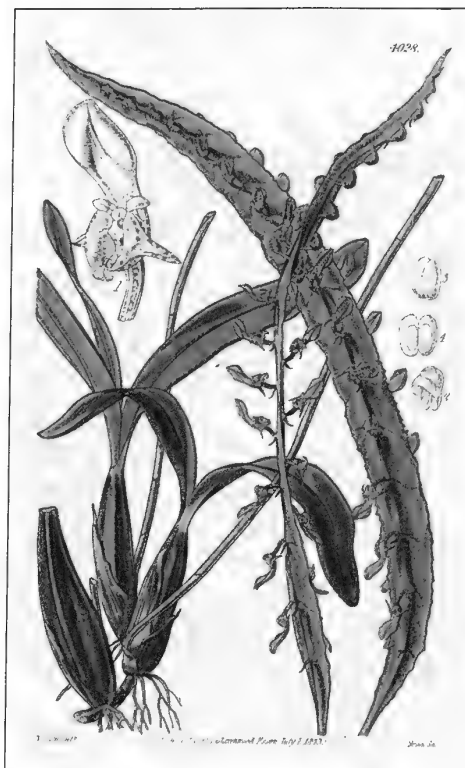
As said before, *Bulbophyllum falcatum* is a very variable species and therefore many synonyms exist. Not all the names considered today to be synonyms have been illustrated. The first illustration of *Bulbophyllum falcatum*, named *Megaclinium falcatum*, was published 1826 in the *Botanical Register*. As explained above, the plate is based on a drawing by John Lindley himself.

Lindley used *Megaclinium falcatum* not only as the type species of his new genus *Megaclinium*, but also as type of his section *Platyclinium* within *Megaclinium*. The recombination of *Megaclinium falcatum* to *Bulbophyllum falcatum* was published by Reichenbach in 1861 in *Walpers Annales Botanices Systematicae*. A very clear and detailed illustration of the species was published in *Nouveaux Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Bruxelles*, the article by Charles Morren dealt with the movement of the labellum of the species, the lithograph by G. Severeijns was done after a drawing by Charles Morren himself. The same article - although without the plate - was reprinted 1843 in *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*. In 1981 Jan Jaap Vermeulen published in the Dutch Orchid journal *Orchideeën* several articles about the group of species around *Bulbophyllum falcatum*, together with very clear line-drawings of several species. He published in part the same drawings in 1987 in his taxonomic revision of the African *Bulbophyllinae* in Volume 2 of *Orchid Monographs*. The generic name *Bulbophyllum*, described 1822 by L.M.A.'du Petit-Thouars was conserved, that means protected against other, older names like *Phyllorkis* or *Phyllorchis*, described in 1808 by the same author. Otto Kuntze recombined all three taxa: *Megaclinium falcatum*, *Megaclinium bufo* and *Megaclinium velutinum* 1891 in *Revisio Genera Plantarum* to the genus *Phyllorchis*. Because of the later conservation of the genus *Bulbophyllum* against *Phyllorchis*, those recombinations by Kuntze are not accepted.

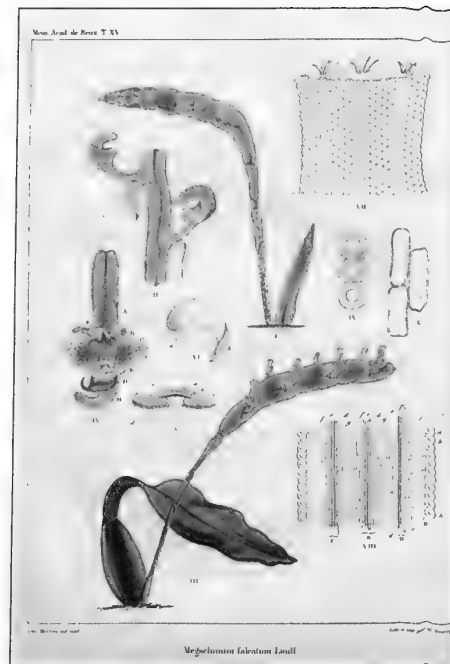
In his report *Westafrikanische Kauschuk-Expedition 1899 - 1900*, published 1901, Rudolf Schlechter mentioned *Bulbophyllum leptorrhachis* as new species from Cameroon, although without description. A detailed description of the species by Schlechter followed 1907 in *Englers Botanische Jahrbücher*. The plant was collected 1900 by Schlechter himself. Rudolf Mansfeld published (after the death of Schlechter) in 1932 in



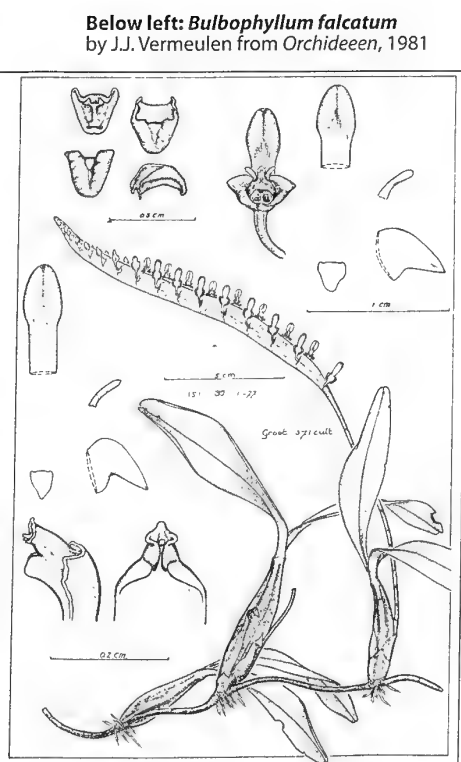
Above left: Plate of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* from the Botanical Register, 1826



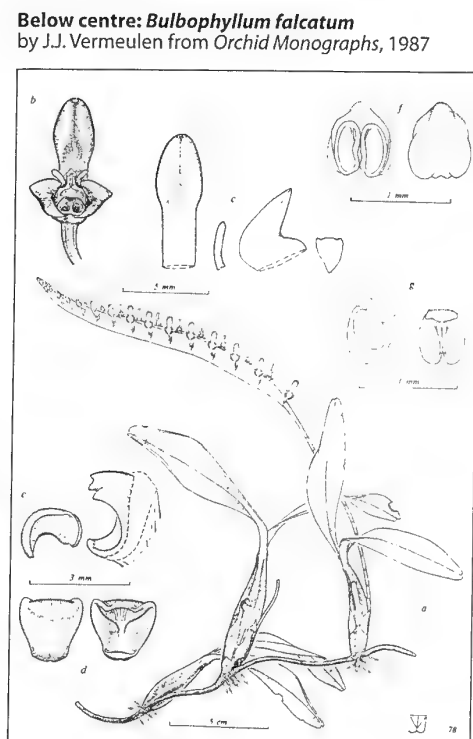
Above centre: Plate of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* (as *Megacolinum maximum*) from Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 1843



Above right: Morren's drawing of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* from Nouveaux Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et belles-lettres de Bruxelles, 1842

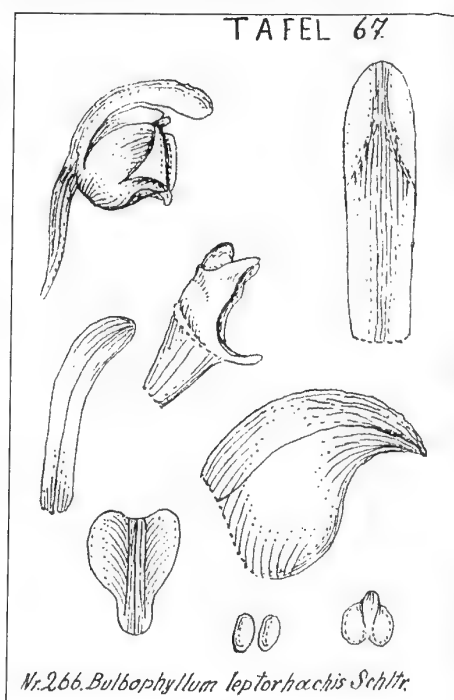


Below left: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* by J.J. Vermeulen from Orchideen, 1981



Below centre: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* by J.J. Vermeulen from Orchid Monographs, 1987

Below right: *Bulbophyllum leptorrhachis* Schlechter from Feddes Repertorium, Beihefte



Nr. 266. Bulbophyllum leptorrhachis Schltr.

Feddes Repertorium, Beihefte Schlechter's drawing of *Bulbophyllum leptorrhachis*, showing rather clear that the taxon is yet another synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum*. In 1843 William Jackson Hooker published in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* an illustration of *Megaclinium maximum* after a plant from the collection of the nursery Loddiges in Hackney, flowering in Kew. Following the concept of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* and its varieties by Vermeulen, this plate shows clearly *Bulbophyllum falcatum*.

Megaclinium bufo - today considered a variety of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* - was described again by Lindley in *Edwards's Botanical Register* in 1841 after a plant introduced by the nursery Loddiges from Sierra Leone. A first drawing of the species was published in the same year in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the same drawing was used by Lindley in 1846 in his *The Vegetable Kingdom*. The recombination of Lindley's *Megaclinium bufo* to *Bulbophyllum bufo* was published by Reichenbach 1861 in *Walpers Annales Botanices Systematicae*. The reduction of the species to *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* was published by Jan Jaap Vermeulen in *Bulletin du Jardin Botanique Nationale de Belgique* in 1986. In 1996 Rafael Govaerts repeated the same combination in his *World checklist of seed plants* as comb.nov., in spite of the fact that Vermeulen did the same 10 years earlier. Two line-drawings of *Megaclinium falcatum* var. *bufo* were published by Vermeulen, one in the Dutch Orchid journal *Orchideeen* from 1981 and the other in his taxonomic revision of the African *Bulbophyllinae* in *Orchid Monographs* in 1987. *Megaclinium gentilii* was described by Emile de Wildeman in 1902 in the journal *La Belgique Coloniale* based on a plant collected in the same year by forest-inspector Louis Gentil in the Belgian Congo. In his essay *Flore du Bas- et du Moyen-Congo* published in *Annales du Musée du Congo Belge*, de Wildeman published in 1909 a perfect illustration of his *Megaclinium gentilii*. In 1921 de Wildeman moved the species in *Plantae Bequaertianae* to the genus *Bulbophyllum* and - because Rolfe used the name *Bulbophyllum gentilii* already in 1904 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for another African species - he had to choose a new epithet (species name): *Bulbophyllum lubiense*. Also *Bulbophyllum lubiense* is a clear synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo*. *Bulbophyllum bakossorum* was described without detailed description in 1901 by

Rudolf Schlechter in his report *Westafrikanische Kauschuk-Expedition 1899 - 1900*. The plant was collected 1900 by Schlechter himself. A detailed description together with a line drawing of plant and flower of the species by Schlechter followed 1907 in *Englers Botanische Jahrbücher*. *Bulbophyllum bakossorum* is today considered to be a synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo*.

Megaclinium velutinum, described but not illustrated in 1847 by John Lindley in *Edwards's Botanical Register* was 1861 recombined to *Bulbophyllum velutinum* by Reichenbach in *Walpers Annales Botanices Systematicae*. In *Bulletin du Jardin Botanique Nationale de Belgique* (1986) Vermeulen reduced Lindley's taxon to the variety: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*. Vermeulen's drawings in the Dutch Orchid journal *Orchideeen* from 1981 (only the form with the flat rhachis) and in his taxonomic revision of the African *Bulbophyllinae* in *Orchid Monographs* in 1987 (3 different forms of the rhachis) are most probably the first illustrations published. The variability of the inflorescence in this variety is stunning, between the typical flat and the zig-zag formed terete rhachis, any possible intermediate form can be found.

Considering this variability, it is not surprising that the same species was described several times under different names.

In 1875 in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* Reichenbach described parallel *Bulbophyllum melanorrhachis* and *Megaclinium melanorrhachis* based on a plant from Bull in England, imported most probably from Sierra Leone. The line-drawing of *Megaclinium melanorrhachis*, published by Vermeulen in *Orchideeen* from 1981 shows the form of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* with the terete inflorescence, 1987 we find the same figures on the drawing of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* in *Orchid Monographs*.

Another synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* is *Bulbophyllum rhizophorae*. Lindley described this taxon 1862 in *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society* based on a plant collected by Barter during the expedition to the west coast of Africa under the command of Baikie. William Jackson Hooker published in the same year in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* a plate of *Bulbophyllum rhizophorae*, based on plants in the collection of Kew, imported in 1860 from the same collection by

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Barter, like Lindley's type and from a later collection by Gustav Mann from the same locality. The drawing was prepared by Walter Hood Fitch. Also *Bulbophyllum rhizophorae* represents the form of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* with the terete rhachis.

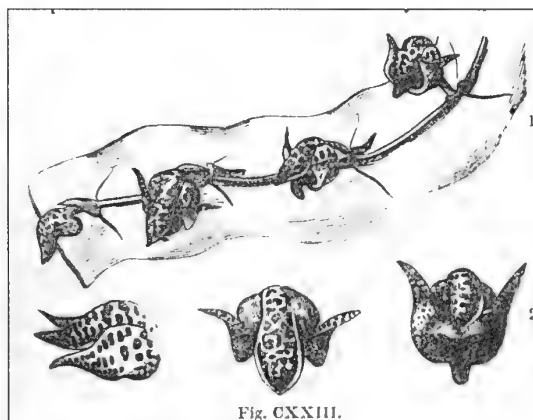
The next synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* is *Bulbophyllum minutum*. Originally the species was described as *Megaclinium minutum* by Robert Allen Rolfe in 1893 in *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information*, Kew, based on a plant collected by G.F. Scott Elliott in Sierra Leone and flowering in the Kew collection in August 1892. The supposed new species was illustrated in the same year by Joseph Dalton Hooker in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. The illustration by John Nugent Fitch was prepared after the same plant from the Kew collection Rolfe used for the first description. In 1908 Adolph Engler published in his book *Die Pflanzenwelt Afrikas, insbesondere seiner tropischen Gebiete* a drawing which is in its larger part a copy from Fitch's plate in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* and named the species as *Bulbophyllum miniatum*. Unfortunately the name *Bulbophyllum miniatum* was used already in 1822 by Du Petit Thouars for another species and that was the reason why Rudolf Schlechter in his famous *Die Orchideen* had to choose a new epithet (species name) in 1914 when he recombined Rolfe's *Megaclinium minutum* to the

genus *Bulbophyllum*, by naming it *Bulbophyllum kewense*.

In 1912 Kraenzlin described *Megaclinium lasianthum* in *Englers Botanische Jahrbücher*, based on a plant collected by G. Simon in Cameroon. In 1935 Victor Samuel Summerhayes moved Kraenzlin's taxon to the genus *Bulbophyllum*, but because the name *Bulbophyllum lasianthum* was already used by Lindley in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1855 for a plant from Sumatra, he had to choose a new epithet (species name): *Bulbophyllum simoni*. The drawing of *Bulbophyllum simoni* by Jan Jaap Vermeulen, published 1981 in *Orchideeen* shows that the taxon is just one of the many forms of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* with a terete rhachis. Consequently Vermeulen added his drawing from 1981 in part to the drawing of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* published 1987 in Volume 2 of *Orchid Monographs*.


I thank J.J. Vermeulen for allowing the reproductions of his drawings in this article for the AOR. All colour photographs taken by the author.

Rudolf Jenny
Moosweg 9
3112 Allmendingen
Switzerland
Email: rjorchid@gmx.ch



Above: *Megaclinium bufo* from *The Vegetable Kingdom* by Lindley, 1846

Left: *Bulbophyllum falcatum*




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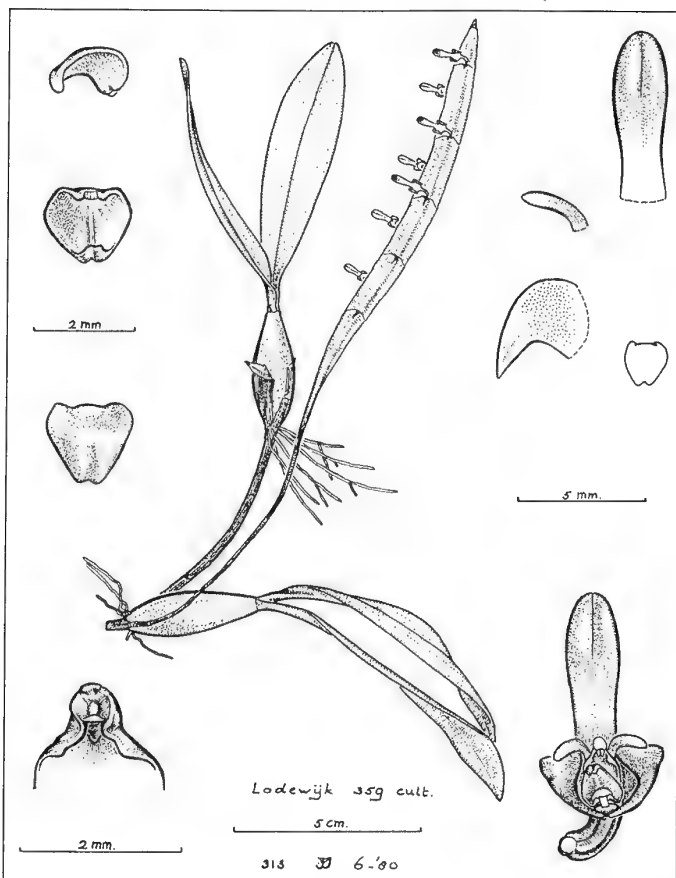


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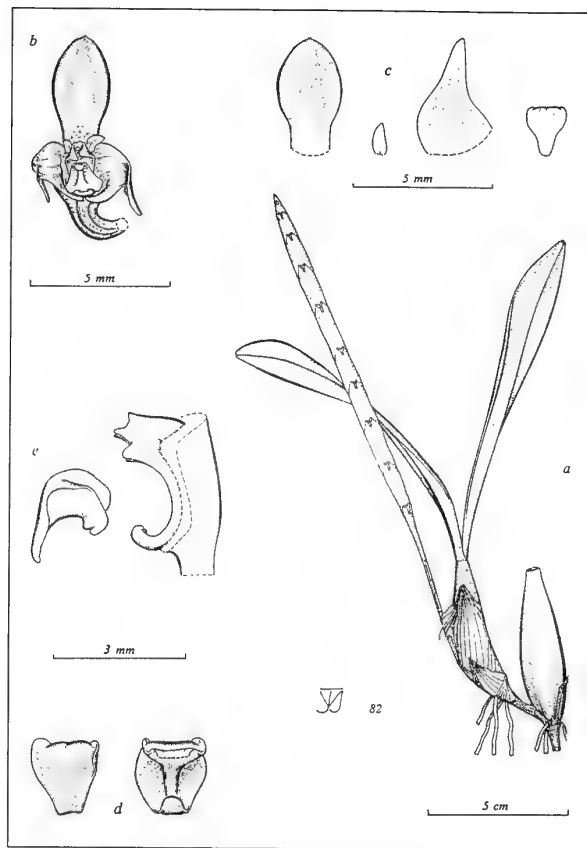
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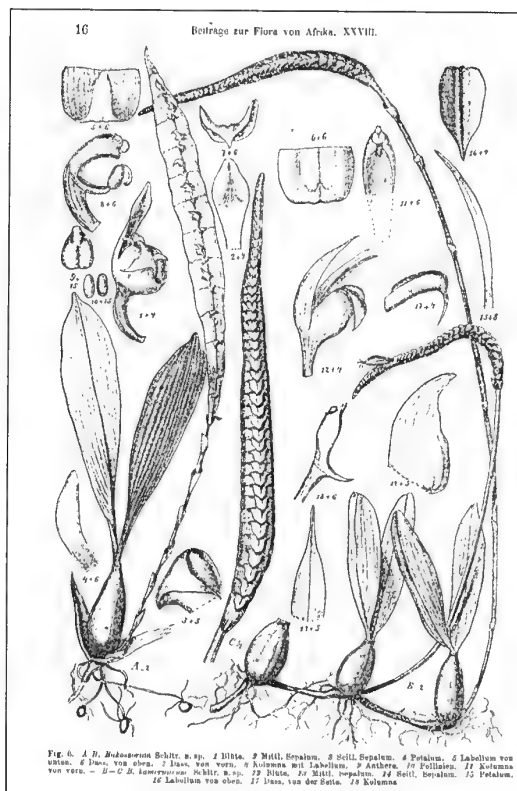
Above left: *Bulbophyllum bufo* by J.J. Vermeulen from *Orchideen*, 1981



Above right: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* by J.J. Vermeulen from *Orchid Monographs*, 1987

Right: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo*
(as *Bulbophyllum bakossorum*)
Schlechter, *Botanische Jahrbücher*, 1905

Below: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (as *Megaclinium gentilii*)
by E.de Wildeman, 1909



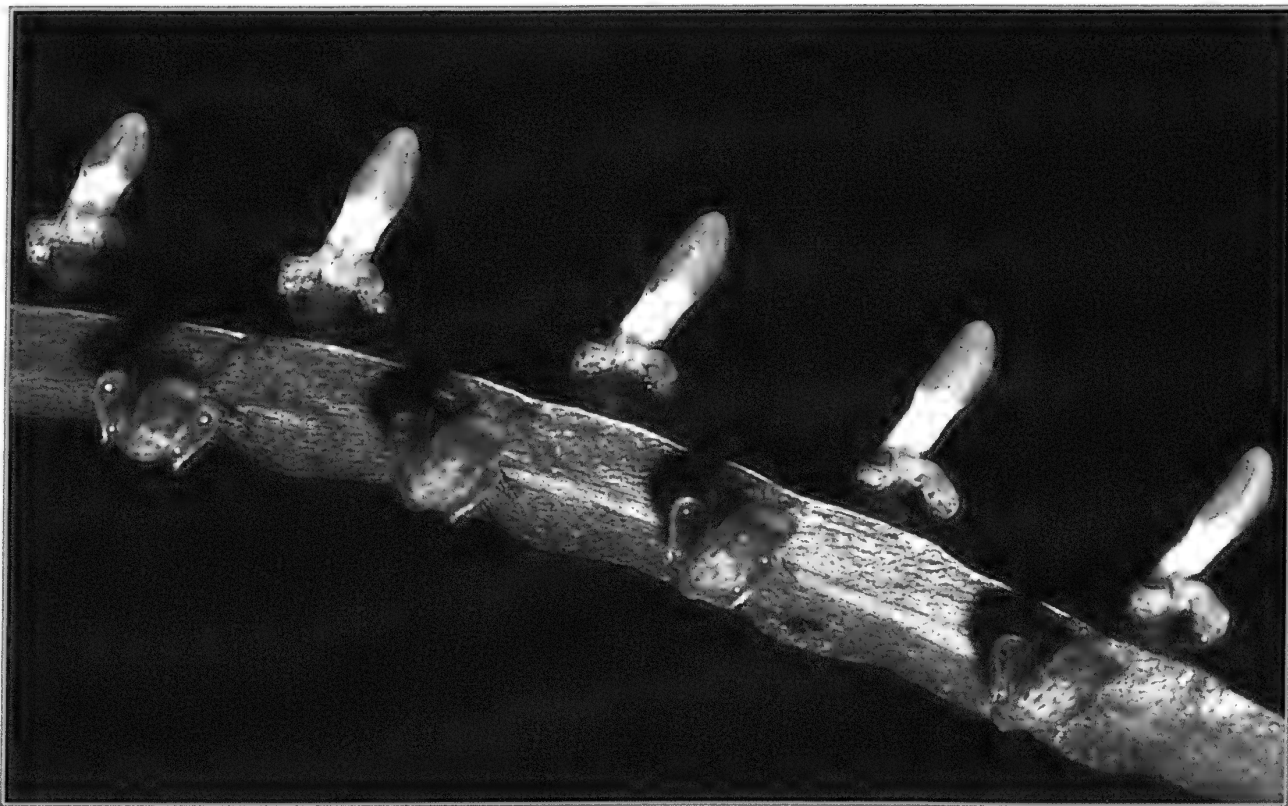
Checklist:

- Bulbophyllum arnoldianum* (De Wildeman) De Wildeman
Plantae Bequaertianae 1:77.1921
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum bakossorum* Schlechter
Westafrikanische Kautschuk-Expedition:280.1901 & *Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie* 38:13.1905
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum bufo* (Lindley) Rchb.f. (as *Bolbophyllum*)
Walpers Annales Botanices Systematicae 6(2):258 – 259.1861
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum brixhei* de Wildeman
Bulletin du Jardin Botanique de l'Etat a Bruxelles 5(1):174 – 175.1915
 Alternative name for *Megaclinium brixhei* De Wildeman
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum dahlemense* Schlechter
Notizblatt des Botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin-Dahlem 7:325 – 326.1921
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *falcatum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum deistelianum* (Kraenzlin) Schlechter
Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie 38:17.1905
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum falcatum* (Lindley) Rchb.f. (as *Bolbophyllum*)
Walpers Annales Botanices Systematicae 6(2):258 – 259.1861
- Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
Bulletin du Jardin Botanique Nationale de Belgique 56:235.1986
- Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (Lindl.) R.Govarts
World checklist of seed plants 2(1):14.1996
 Invalid recombination by Govarts
- Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *falcatum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
Bulletin du Jardin Botanique Nationale de Belgique 56:235.1986
- Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
Bulletin du Jardin Botanique Nationale de Belgique 56:235.1986
- Bulbophyllum fractiflexum* Kraenzlin
Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie 48:392.1913
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum hemirhachis* (Kraenzlin) De Wildeman
Plantae Bequaertianae 1:86.1921
 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *falcatum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Bulbophyllum kewense* Schlechter
Die Orchideen :328.1914
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 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
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 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *falcatum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
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 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
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- Bulbophyllum minutum* var. *purpureum* (De Wildeman) De Wildeman
Plantae Bequaertianae 1:89.1921
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 Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *falcatum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
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Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
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Synonym of *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum* (Lindl.) J.J.Vermeulen
- Megaclinium oxyodon* Rchb.f.
Gardeners' Chronicle ser.3, 4:91.1888
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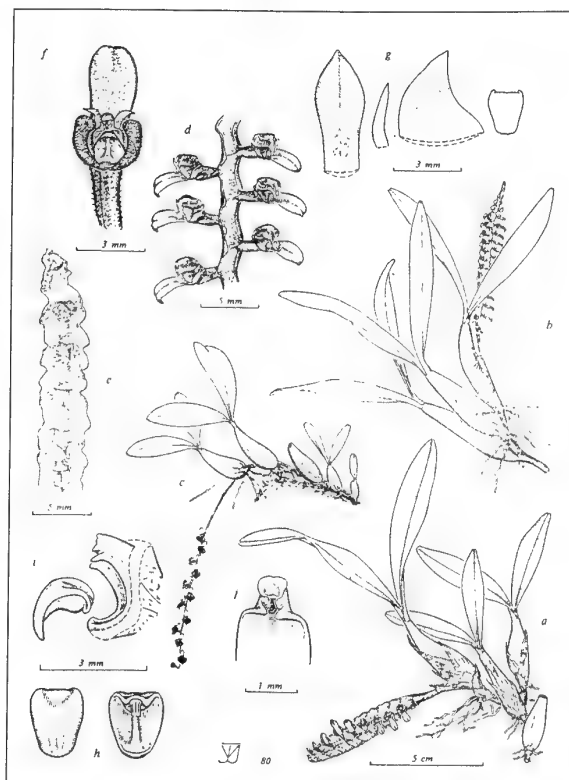
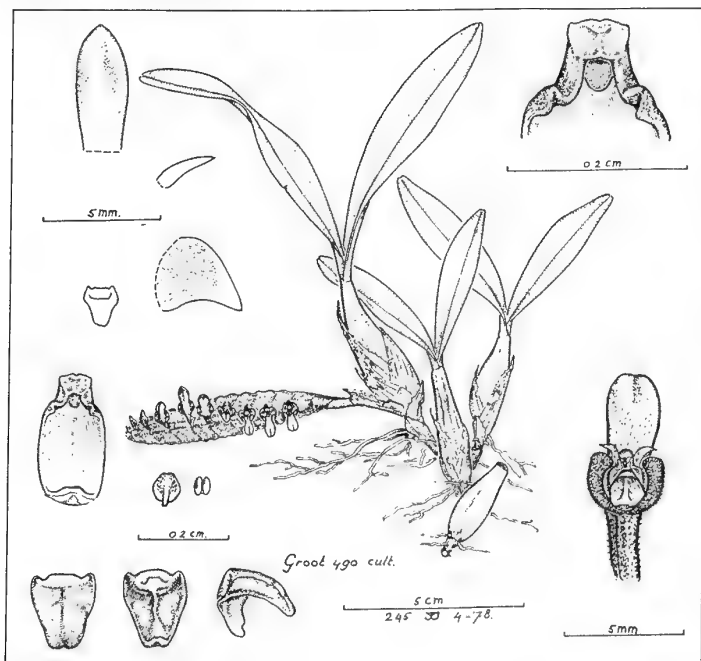
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Above: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *bufo*

Below right: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*
by J.J. Vermeulen from *Orchid Monographs*, 1987

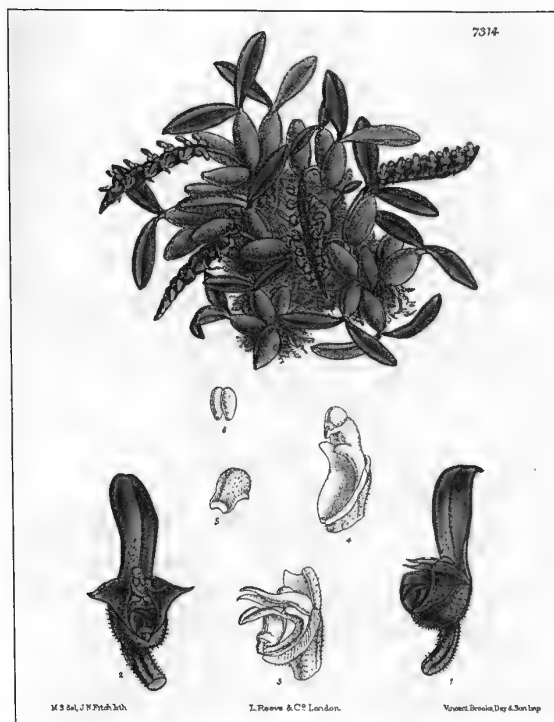
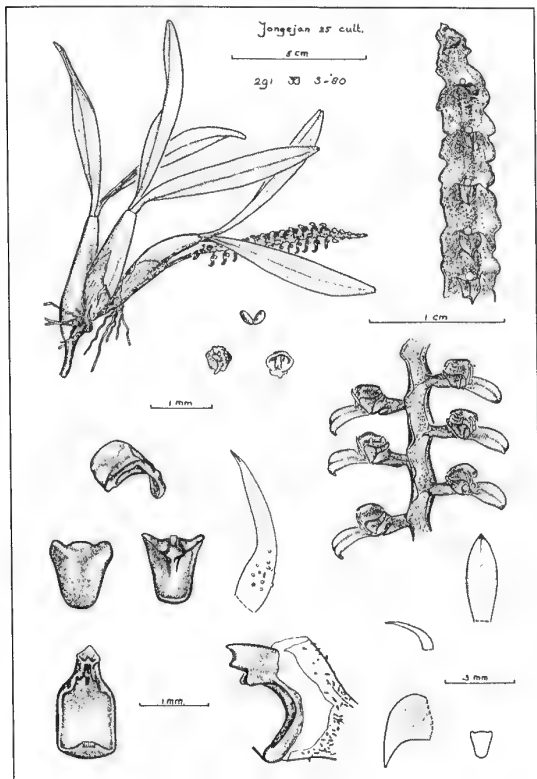
Below left: *Bulbophyllum velutinum* by J.J. Vermeulen from *Orchideen*, 1981



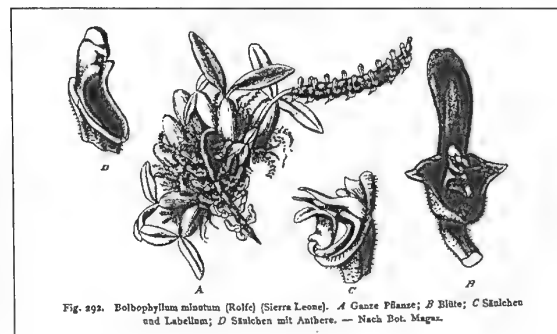


Above left: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*
(as *Bulbophyllum rhizophorae*) from Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 1862

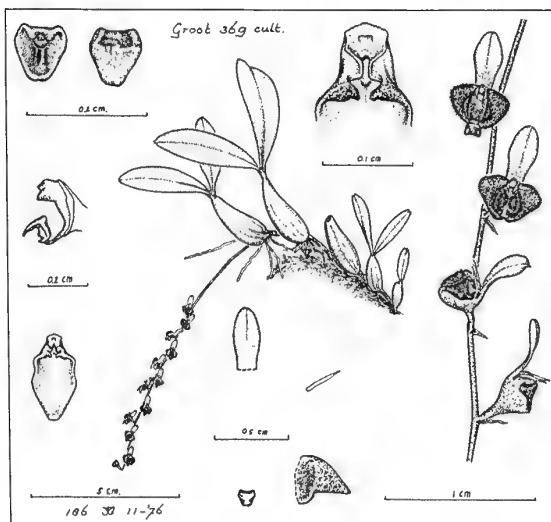
Below: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*
(as *Bulbophyllum melanorrhachis*) J.J. Vermeulen from Orchideen, 1981



Above right: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*
(as *Megacclinium minutum*) from Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 1893



Right: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*
(as *Bulbophyllum minutum*) from Die Vegetation der Erde, 1908



Left: *Bulbophyllum falcatum* var. *velutinum*
(as *Bulbophyllum simonii*) J.J. Vermeulen from Orchideen, 1981



Left:
Bulbophyllum falcatum
var. *velutinum*,
form with the terete
zig-zag-shaped
inflorescence

Below:
Bulbophyllum falcatum
var. *velutinum*,
form with the "normal"
flat inflorescence



FLORA'S ORCHIDS

Senior Consultant David P. Banks

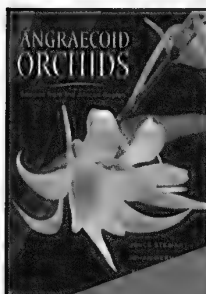
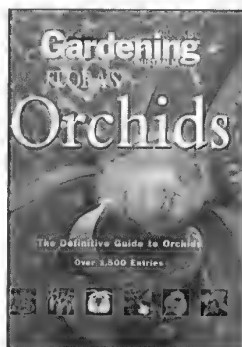
Part of the best-selling *Flora* range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation.

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AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

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ANGRAECOID ORCHIDS:

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by Joyce Stewart, Johan Hermans, and Bob Campbell

These so-called 'Jewels of Africa' with their large flowers, distinctive growth habit and fragrance are much prized and this account of the angraecoid orchids of the African region is long awaited. It brings together, in one volume, descriptions of all the angraecoid orchids of the region. The book is a must for all angraecoid orchid growers. The authors, Stewart, Herman and Campbell, have all spent time in various parts of eastern and southern Africa and precise ecological information on the preferences and flowering season of individual plants will be of great value to growers. The diagnostic features of each genus are illustrated and the species are accompanied by exquisite photographs taken in both wild habitats and in cultivation. The authors know the angraecoid orchids well, both in cultivation and the wild, and this knowledge has led to an authoritative account of these interesting plants.

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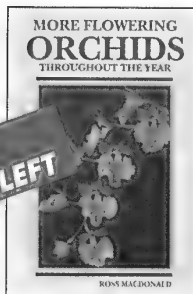
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This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some species that would require artificial heating in winter. The volume covers a further 31 genera and 344 colour photographs. It is recommended to all orchid growers and collectors who wish to see an orchid in flower that they could grow.

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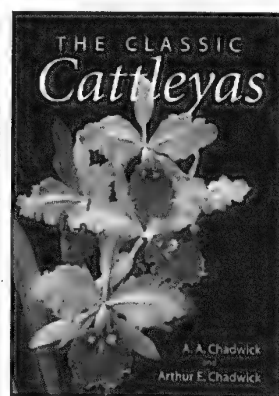
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by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.

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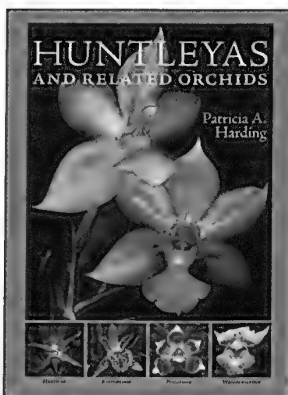
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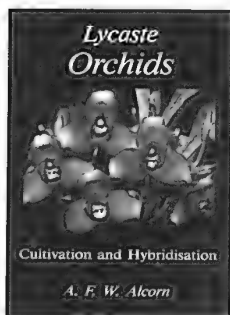
HUNTLEYAS AND RELATED ORCHIDS by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya meleagris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been confused since the first species was described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships

and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

260 pages, 150 colour
photos. Hardcover.

OUR DISCOUNT PRICE \$A44.95 (Ind.GST)
was \$85.00 RRP (Ind. GST) PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING



LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

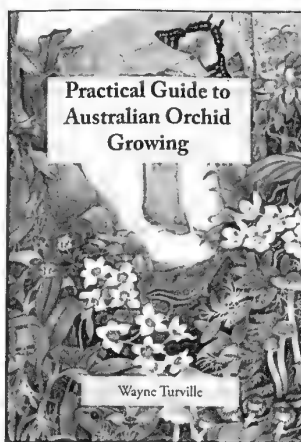
Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages.
Colour and B&W.

OUR DISCOUNT PRICE \$A12.80 (Ind.GST)
was \$13.75 RRP (Ind. GST) PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING



PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia — specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of the some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, Cymbidiums and *Sarcochilus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

64 pages, colour.
210mm x 146mm.
Softcover.

OUR DISCOUNT PRICE \$A12.50 (Ind.GST)
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TyTags Australia

TyTags Australia is an all Australian, family-owned business, TyTags has been supplying printers, labels and tags to the plant nursery for 40 years. "Today three generations of the family work in the business" said Charles Sweeney who started to think about making a better plant tag in the 70's after discovering ineffective cardboard labels being used by a local nursery.

"We all are involved and do nearly everything in house; software development, technical support, design, sales and marketing as well as tag and label manufacture. It allows us to develop product effectively and efficiently and to respond to customers' special needs quickly."

"For many years I had a dream of being able to give nursery people the ability to print their own long-lasting labels and tags in full colour. Finally we were able to do it and after a 3 year development period we launched the TyTags DIY solution". The system consists of software, a laser printer and specially developed label product that is tough and UV resistant. DIY is used by both large and small nurseries and is particularly appealing to growers of unique plants. The cost advantages of just-in-time printing, plus the ability for growers to create labels absolutely specific to the plant, have seen the system revolutionise how nurseries manage their labelling.

TyTags DIY is now available in several editions tailored to suit different sections of the horticultural industry. A recent release is a Starter Pack designed for orchid growers. "We have a number of large orchid growers around the country using our premium DIY WIN Edition" explained Charles. "These growers have access to the many advanced features offered in the WIN Edition software as well as a fully supported OKI laser printer, training and ongoing upgrades etc. The Starter Pack Edition contains software only, designed for smaller nurseries with simple needs."

The Orchid Grower Edition of the Starter Pack contains the software to enable the design and printing of the TyTags range of tags, labels and signage. It also contains 25 sample sheets of various tags and labels, 501 tags in all. This was showcased at the recent Sydney International Orchid Fair, held at Castle Hill in April 2011. TyTags Australia donated one of these packs (RRP \$375.00) for the raffle held by Retina Australia (NSW).

Purchasers of the Starter Pack need a laser printer. There are a number of printers on the market that will do the job, but after many months of testing the company chose the OKI C5000 series as the best for the job. "The OKI is robust and ideal for nurseries. It handles the heavy materials we use to make the tags and labels. We are now a Platinum Partner with OKI and are proud to sell and support their printers."

"It was the tags themselves that took the most time and effort to develop. We have 36 sizes and styles of tags, labels and signage. All tags are on A4 sheets, with the required holes and perforations, ready to be used immediately they are printed. We bring in the special materials on big rolls from overseas and I make all the sheets. The material has a special coating that allows the printer toner to bake into the surface providing UV resistance."

TyTags Australia are based at Morisset, NSW. For more information, visit the website at www.tytags.com

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IT'S SIMPLE. YOU'LL NEED:

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TyTags Australia's long-lasting Laser Labels are available in five styles and in many sizes. Produced on laser printable A4 sheets, the labels and tags are pre-cut, ready to be used instantly.



2) EASY TO USE SOFTWARE

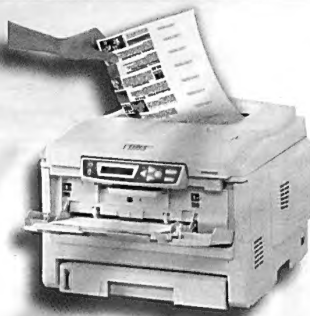


Produce your own professional tags and labels in an instant. Print exactly what you need on your label for propagation or sales. Use your own photos and information. Customers value relevant accurate information.

Starter Pack for hobbyists and DIY WIN Edition premium software for professional growers.

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Australian Orchid Review

Editor:

David P. Banks
Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

Address editorial to:

The Editor, Australian Orchid Review,
39 Carole Street, Seven Hills, NSW 2147 Australia
☎ (02) 9674 4720
Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

To join an orchid society contact these secretaries

New South Wales

Veronica Clowes
P.O. Box 5396, Chullora NSW 2190
Phone: (02) 9649 2719
Email: secretaryosnsw@yahoo.com.au

Queensland

Maree Illingworth
P.O. Box 126BC, Brown Plains 4118
Phone: (07) 3800 3213
Email: r.millingworth@uq.net.au

Western Australia

R. McGrath
P.O. Box 58, Como 6152
Phone: (08) 9367 9306

Victoria

Diane Sharam
1 Tynan Street, West Preston, 3072
Phone: (03) 9478 9764

Frankie Fraser

Phone: (03) 9802 9929
Email: frankie_fraser@bigpond.com

South Australia

Coralie Hills
G.P.O. Box 730, Adelaide 5001
Phone: (08) 8721 3213

Don Higgs

P.O. Box 134, Myponga SA 5202
Phone: (08) 8558 6247
Email: jhiggs@internode.on.net

Tasmania

Jan Dicker
G.P.O. Box 467, Hobart 7001
Phone: (03) 6247 9636
Email: jtdicker@bigpond.com

Northern Territory

Tammie Coyne
P.O. Box 38493, Winnellie 0821

To join a Cymbidium Club in your state, contact:

Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc.

Secretary, Peter Moore
10 Stephanie Street, Padstow NSW 2211
Phone: (02) 9721 0572
Web: www.ccansw.com.au

The Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria Inc.

Secretary, Jenifer Robinson
54 Worthington Road, Devon Meadows VIC 3977
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Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

Secretary, Jeanne Hall
18 Coorilla Avenue, Glenelg North SA 5045
Phone: (08) 8294 5562

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia Inc.

Secretary, Helen Stretch
Phone: 0419 197 943

Publisher

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June 10-12 TQOC Conference and Show
– Bowen Qld

June 16-19 Parramatta & District Orchid Society
Show – Winston Hills Mall NSW

June 25-26 Mingara Orchid Fair – NSW

July 10 Tinonee Orchids Open Day & Show
– Tinonee NSW

July 31 Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day
(feat. Easy Orchids) – Northmead NSW

August 12-14 National Orchid Extravaganza
– Dural NSW

August 19-21 St. Ives Orchid Fair – NSW

August 20-21 National Cymbidium Show
– Noarlunga Leisure Centre, SA

August 26-28 Melbourne Orchid Spectacular
& Victorian International Orchid Fair
– Keysborough Vic

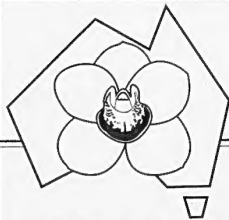
September 9-11 Queensland Orchid Society
Spring Show – Mt Coolum Botanic Gardens,
Brisbane Qld

September 22-24 Parramatta & District Orchid
Society Spring Clivia and Orchid Show
– Winston Hills Mall, NSW

September 25 Hills District Orchids Spring
Open Day – Northmead NSW

October 1-2 South & West Regional Conference
& Show – Nowra NSW

October 7-9 Southern Orchid Spectacular
– Sharkies, Woollooware NSW



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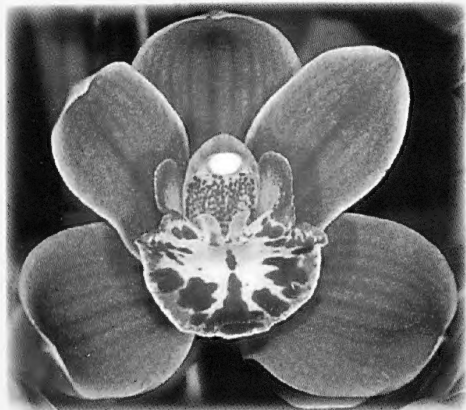
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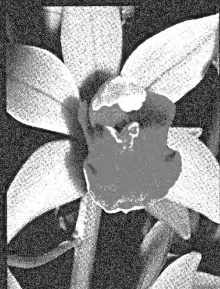
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